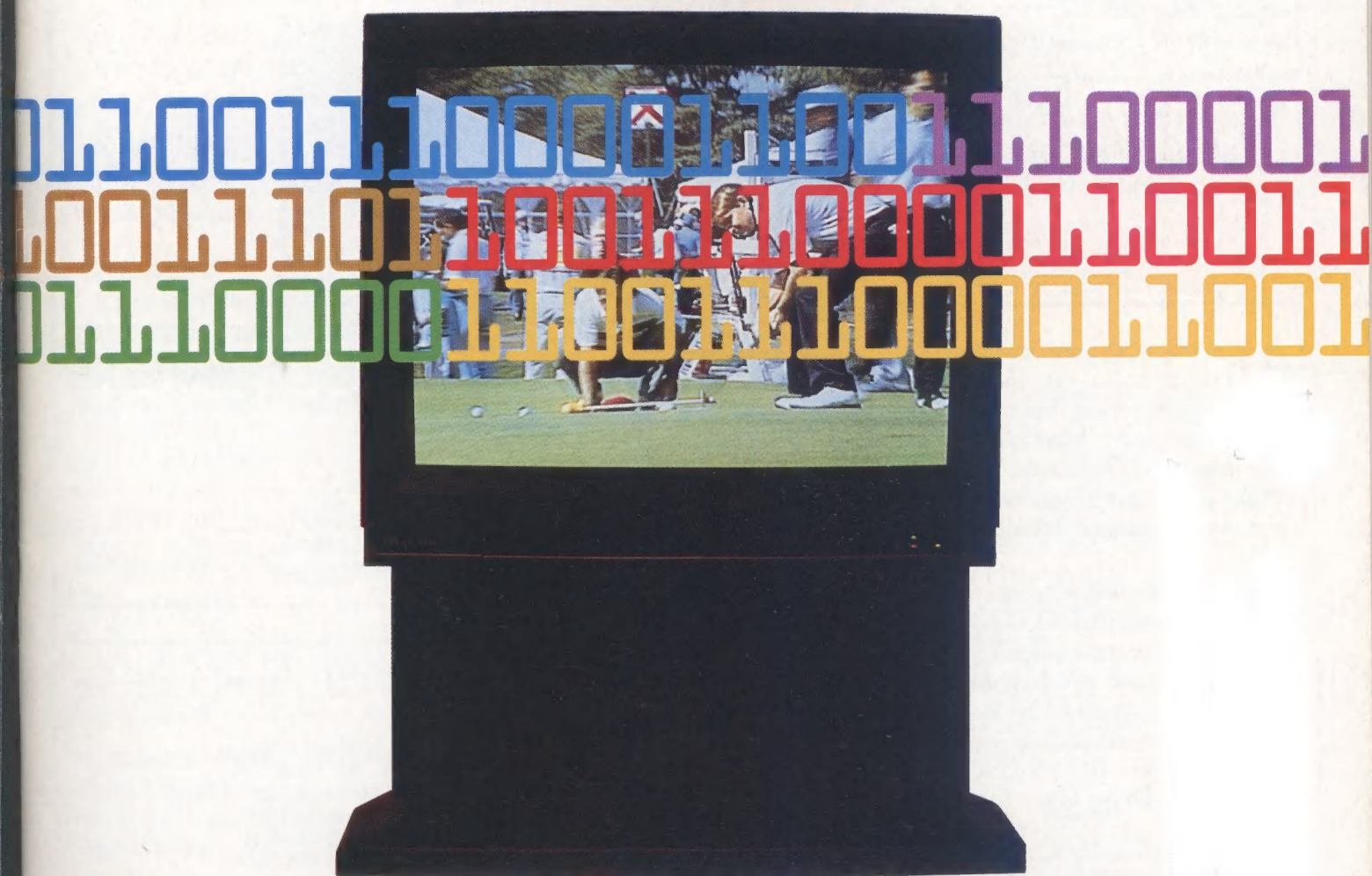


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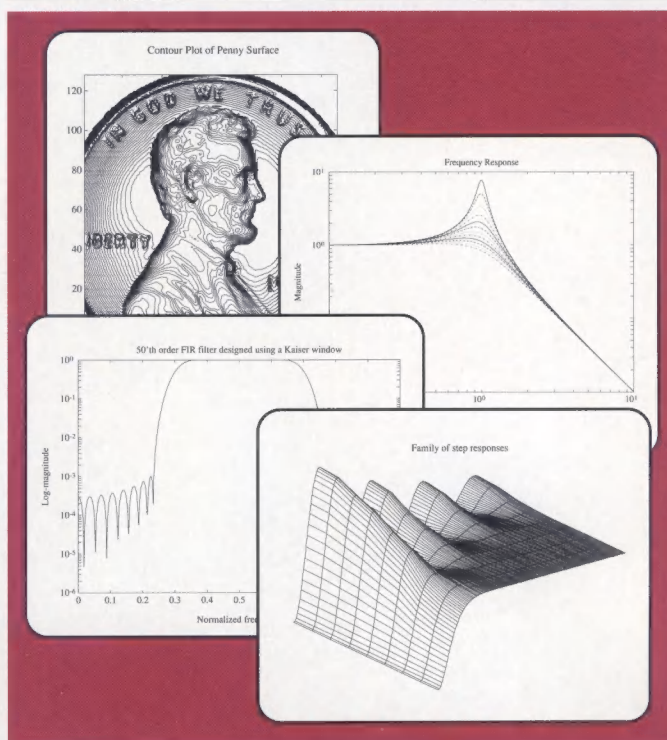
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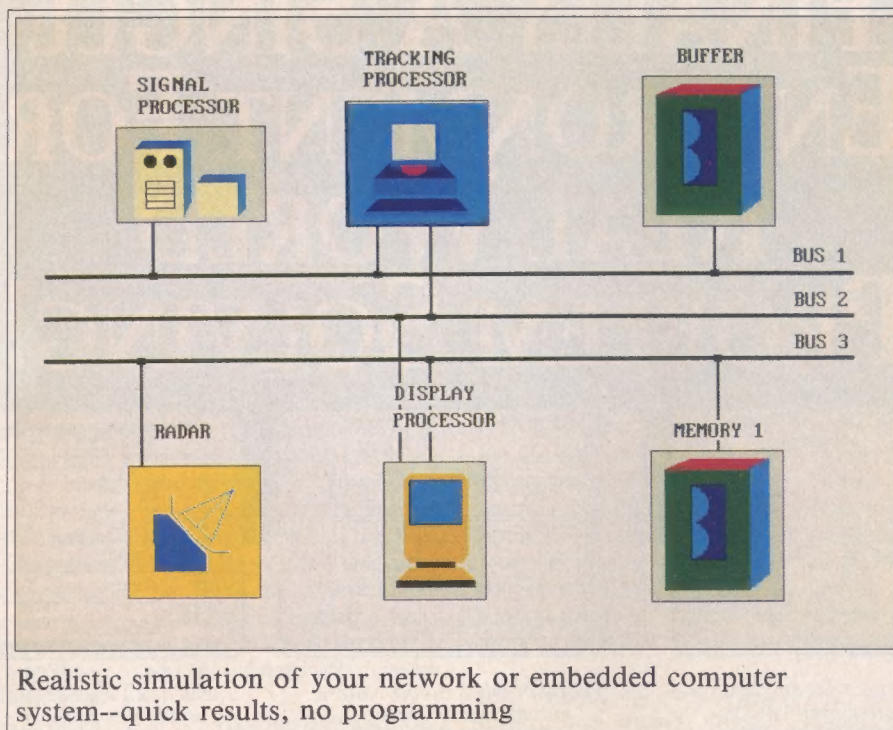
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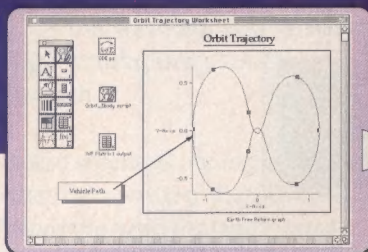
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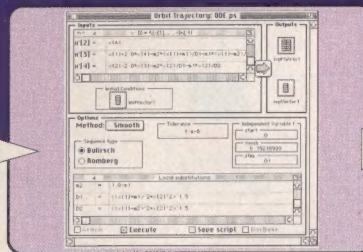
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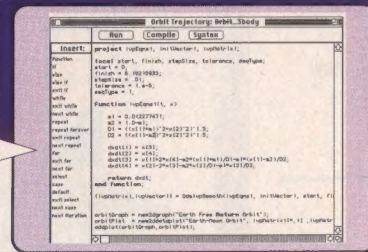
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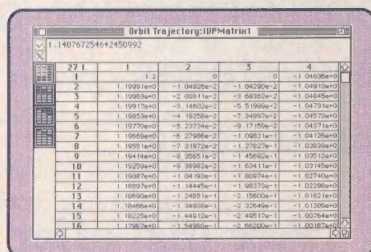
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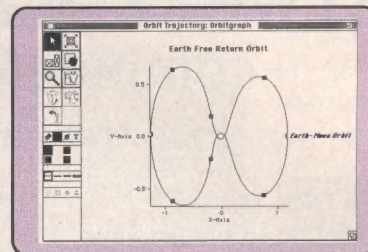
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Newslog

JAN 16. The Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C., said it would propose opening up 220 MHz of the radio spectrum to emerging wireless technologies like pocket cellular telephones, satellite messaging systems, and digital radio. The agency also plans to set aside a small portion of the spectrum for interactive over-the-air services enabling television viewers to shop or bank at home. The proposals drew fire from utilities and public safety agencies using those frequencies for microwave communications.

JAN 17. Micron Technology Inc., Boise, Idaho, a producer of dynamic RAMs, said it would finance the development of flat-panel display screens by **Coloray Display Corp.**, Fremont, Calif. Experts said the technology on which Coloray is working—field-emission display technology—could produce displays that are lighter, brighter, cheaper, and more energy-efficient than the active-matrix liquid-crystal displays being pursued by Japanese companies.

JAN 20. Bell Communications Research (Bellcore), Livingston, N.J., said it had established technical requirements for a switched multimegabit data service that would link long-distance, international carrier, and local telephone networks at access speeds of 1.2–34 Mb/s. The service will be offered in 30 U.S. cities by early 1993.

JAN 22. Quorum Software Systems, Menlo Park, Calif., said it had developed a program that permits users to run software designed for Apple Computer Inc.'s Macintosh PCs on Sun, IBM, and Silicon Graphics workstations. It is the first major attempt to run Macintosh software on more powerful computers using reduced-instruction-set computing (RISC) processors.

JAN 22. Sun Microsystems Inc., Mountain View, Calif., and

Cray Research Inc., Eagan, Minn., said that Cray would base a new line of computers in the US \$1–\$3 million range on Sun's Sparc microprocessor technology. Cray thus embraces the open system concept, which mixes hardware and software from multiple sources.

JAN 25. The Bush administration said it will not resume production of the thermonuclear weapons carried by submarine-launched Trident II missiles. The decision could shut down the Government's nuclear-bomb-building industry, which has been on hold since 1989 for environmental and safety reasons.

JAN 27. Hewlett-Packard Co., Palo Alto, Calif., and **Analog Devices Inc.**, Norwood, Mass., announced an alliance to develop mixed digital-and-analog chips. The chips will first be produced by HP with its submicrometer CMOS and BiCMOS technology, but Analog could license their manufacture at its facilities.

JAN 28. GEC Alsthom NV, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, the Anglo-French power engineering group, and **Howden Group Canada Ltd.**, Scarborough, Ont., part of the Scottish engineering company, said an international consortium to which they belong has won a \$770 million turnkey contract to build a 1100-MW power station in western Iran.

JAN 28. ABB Asea Brown Boveri Ltd., Zurich, said it had bought a 10 percent share in **Elektrim**, Warsaw, Poland, a recently privatized foreign trade company specializing in power generation, for 21 billion zloty (US \$1 million).

JAN 28. French Prime Minister Edith Cresson announced that **IBM Corp.** would buy a 5.7 percent stake in **Group Bull SA**, Paris, for \$100 million. IBM will supply Bull with its RISC

technology, while Bull will make its open standards technology available to IBM.

FEB 4. ICL Ltd., the UK-based manufacturer owned by **Fujitsu Ltd.** of Japan, said the **Tartar Republic**, an autonomous republic within Russia, had agreed to finance the import of ICL computer components. ICL-Kmecs, a joint venture that ICL established last year with the republic's Kazan Manufacturing Enterprise of Computer Systems, will assemble the components in ICL's RISC machines and sell them throughout the former USSR.

FEB 5. Intel Corp., Santa Clara, Calif., and **Sharp Corp.**, Osaka, Japan, said they would develop the next generation of more powerful flash memories using 0.4- and 0.6- μ m geometries. Production is to begin in Fukuyama, Japan, in 1994.

FEB 6. IBM Corp. and National Semiconductor Corp., Santa Clara, Calif., announced a partnership that will focus on developing local-area network (LAN) products that make networking easier. The new relationship brings together the strongest proponents of rival LAN technologies: IBM of Token-Ring and National Semiconductor of Ethernet.

FEB 6. The Bush administration said it supported a 96-to-0 U.S. Senate vote on an energy bill amendment to phase out faster the production of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which are damaging the protective ozone layer. The **Environmental Protection Agency** said the schedule to cease CFC production—now set for the year 2000—could be moved up by three to five years.

FEB 7. The Bush administration said it would propose to Russia a Western-financed clearinghouse for jobs for Russian nuclear engineers and

scientists. The clearinghouse, to be set up in Russia, would pair the talents of 2000–3000 scientists with the needs of foreign employers willing to pay for commercial nuclear research.

FEB 8. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory said that the **Ulysses** space probe was hurled southward by **Jupiter's** gravity out of the plane in which the planets orbit the sun to positions from which it will study the sun's poles, the first spacecraft to do so. A \$750 million joint effort by NASA and the **European Space Agency**, Ulysses was launched a year and a half ago.

FEB 10. Digital Equipment Corp., Maynard, Mass., said it would build its own PCs in Taiwan. The move is a shift from DEC's practice of selling only PCs manufactured by other companies, though those arrangements will continue.

FEB 12. Cray Research Inc., Eagan, Minn., said it would use the Alpha RISC microprocessor developed by **Digital Equipment Corp.**, Maynard, Mass., for a first-generation massively parallel computer. The 100-gigaflops-plus system will be delivered next year.

FEB 13. IBM Corp. said it would open a laboratory in Kingston, N.Y., for designing massively parallel supercomputers based on IBM's RISC System 6000 chip technology. The first machines are expected to be brought to market by early 1993.

Preview:

MAR 1. By this date, **IBM Corp.** and **Hewlett-Packard Co.**, Palo Alto, Calif., intend to announce a pact to develop and manufacture a family of low-cost optical-link cards using compact-disc laser technology and complying with the new American National Standards Institute Fiber Channel Standard.

COORDINATOR: Sally Cahur

IEEE SPECTRUM

SPECTRAL LINES

23 Design, don't build?

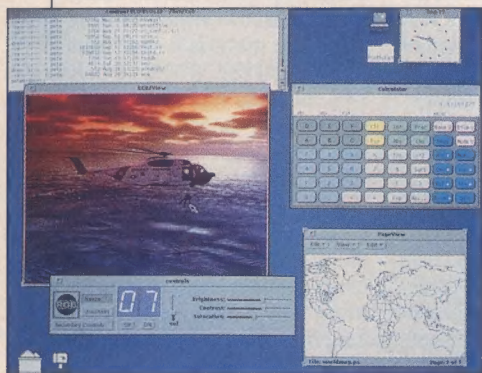
By DONALD CHRISTIANSEN

One proposal for cutting defense spending is to design, but not necessarily build, future weapons systems. Doing this could be fraught with hazards, however, unless how a system is to be built is considered in parallel with its design.

SPECIAL REPORT

24 DIGITAL VIDEO

By RONALD K. JURGEN



The explosion in digital imaging and related technologies has already spun off the ability to combine video and computer images. For example, a computer screen (above) relying on RGB Spectrum's RGB/View 550 plug-in board, marries live TV to computer-generated text and graphics. As standards are developed, more ways to "mix and match" video, sound, and graphics are in the offing.

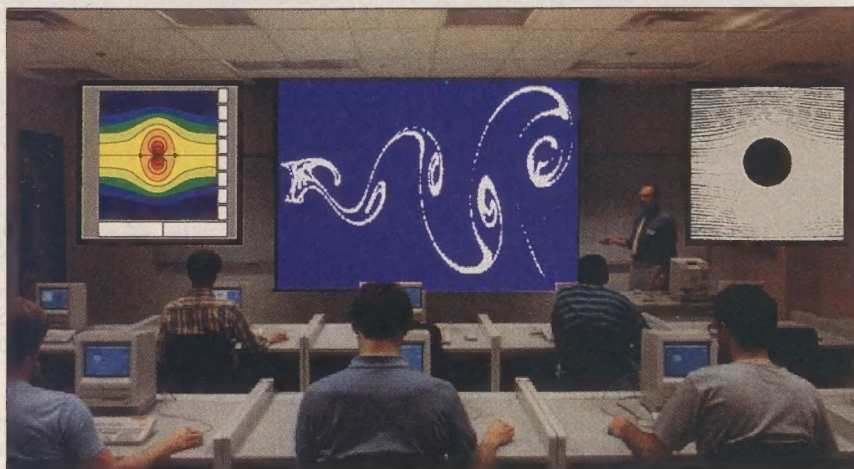
APPLICATIONS/SOLID STATE

36 Fitting logic

By THOMAS R. CLARK

Next-generation synthesis software makes life easier for logic designers by manipulating a generic logic description to yield the best possible fit for a particular field-programmable gate array or complex programmable logic device.

PERSPECTIVE/EDUCATION



31 Refreshing curricula

By GEORGE F. WATSON

Engineering schools have joined to revitalize undergraduate courses so as to attract and retain students and prepare them for careers in the 21st century. The schools are weaving together design projects and multidisciplinary subjects through the four years of study, and exploiting computers, software, and advanced displays in the classroom.

BACK TO BASICS

45 After Newton, Maxwell

By PAUL J. NAHIN

Besides making sense of electromagnetic phenomena in the latter half of the 19th century, James Clerk Maxwell's famous equations achieved the second great unification in physics: they showed that the science of light and optics is a branch of electromagnetism. The astounding conclusion: electromagnetic effects travel through space at the speed of light.

SYSTEMS/COMMUNICATIONS

40 Recovery from disaster

By DENNIS BODSON and ELEANOR HARRIS

The breakup of the Bell System and the proliferation in the United States of technologies, services, and providers has challenged telecommunications systems managers during crises of national security and emergencies such as the recent San Francisco-area earthquake.



SIGNAL PROCESSING

46 Through a bat's ear

By JAMES A. SIMMONS, PRESTOR A. SAILLANT, and STEVEN P. DEAR

Recent experiments have shown that a bat's acoustic imaging variously combines time- and frequency-domain operations. The results encouraged the researchers to disregard conventional distinctions between these domains and to model a signal processor on the bat's acutely sensitive auditory neural system.



Steven P. Dear

COMPETITIVENESS

49 Competing in the global economy

By ROBERT M. WHITE

U.S. technology policy is wrestling with what the nation needs to compete in a global economy. Only recently has the Federal government set up an office focused purely on technology issues: the Commerce Department's Technology Administration.

51 READER SURVEY

How do you think *Spectrum* is doing? Let us know by responding to our reader survey, which asks about the articles you've read in the magazine and the articles you'd like to see us publish. And we hope you'll take the time to tell us about anything else on your mind.

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64 Coming in *Spectrum*

Cover: Digital imaging is making its mark in systems combining video and computer images. A universal header/descriptor, symbolized by artist Gus Sauter, will have an even greater impact in the future. See p. 24.

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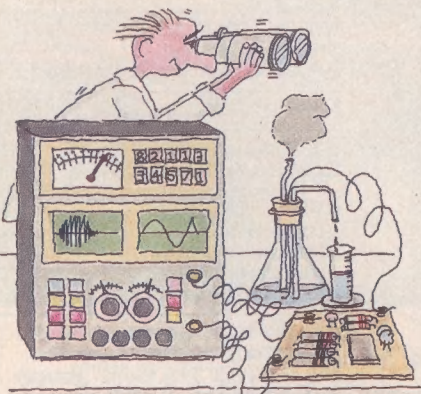
Reflections

The fashionable thing

I sat in the darkened auditorium, listening to a talk about the history of fiber optics. It was being given from the perspective of the local telephone companies—British, in this case. The projector was showing these beautiful, old, black-and-white photographs of systems experiments using a circular waveguide, the technology being pursued in the early 1960s for high-capacity transmission.

For those who may never have heard of this technique, it used a hollow pipe of about 10-cm diameter to transmit microwave signals in a mode that had extremely low attenuation—that is, as long as the pipe was absolutely straight. Well, nothing was perfect, after all.

The old slides shifted to another technology—the confocal lens. Now the pipe



carried lightwave signals, which were focused periodically by arrays of lenses. The pipe still had to be ever so straight, and there were these other problems . . .

I remembered that stuff, and the old-fashioned texture of the ancient slides made me feel like a fossil. What dumb ideas they were. How could we ever have worked on such stupid technology? It was bad enough that we struggled with that junk on our side of the Atlantic, but in Europe they were doing the same thing. So was everybody else, I guess. It was the fashion then.

It is curious how technology travels. As I go from lab to lab around the world, I see the same projects everywhere. A story starts running that NEC in Japan is working on upside-down lasers. Whispered conferences are held in Yorktown Heights, Murray Hill, Martlesham Heath, and other famous electro-metropolises.

"They say it has a fantastically high output power," says an electro-manager in a tense voice. "We have nothing like it," he adds, needlessly. The assembled researchers stare quietly at their notebooks, edging nearer to each other in order to share the collective guilt. One notebook seems to have a diagram of an upside-down laser drawn in freehand. Or perhaps the notebook itself is upside-down. In any event, later that afternoon 11 people are working on upside-down lasers.

Several weeks later at the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C., a staff meeting is taking place. "You mean to say that we have no program in upside-down lasers?" the director is saying quietly through clenched teeth. Now the staff cringes with his sudden rise in volume. The director is shouting the ultimate threat. "What will happen to national competitiveness?!" he exclaims.

Special funds are quickly allocated at NSF. The word goes out: there is money on the street. Just say the secret words—upside-down lasers. In Cambridge, Pasadena, Palo Alto, and other electro-villages the sweet smell of available funds permeates the air. Ph.D. students confer in hallways. Upside-down lasers are fashionable. Get in while you can.

Meanwhile, in Tsukuba, Japan, there is a meeting of executives at the NEC labs. "Do we have anyone working on these—what do they call them?—upside-down lasers?" asks the chief manager. The others stir uneasily in their seats. "I regret, but, no," says the group leader. "It is an American thing," he adds with a helpless shrug. He glances sideways at the others with an expression that seems to say, "What can you do?"

Nevertheless, a team is quickly assembled, and a leapfrog project is begun. If the Americans want to push upside-down lasers, they will find the Japanese more than ready.

At the next Conference on Lasers and Electro-Optics, the sessions are filled with upside-down laser papers. Reporters for trade magazines buttonhole attendees outside the meeting rooms to get interviews for feature stories on upside-down lasers, but even those agile publications are scooped by an in-depth story in the *New York Times* science section.

In the midst of all this clamor, a quiet rumor is being circulated in the corridors of yet another breakthrough in laser structures—this time, the sideways laser from Stuttgart. No one knows the details, but it is said that this laser has an incredibly low threshold current.

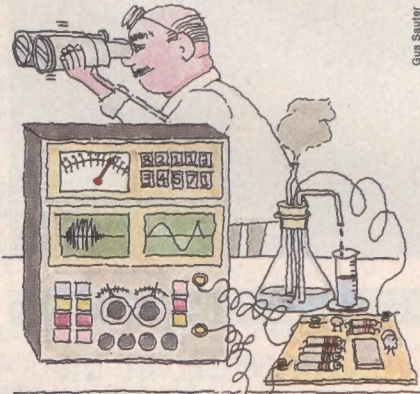
Later, back in New Jersey, the vice presi-

dent looks over the long table in the executive conference room at the upturned faces of the directors. "Why are so many people working on upside-down lasers?" he asks in exasperation.

A director not responsible for laser work chimes in with the news about the German success with sideways lasers. The other directors are irked by his smug expression; they knew, too, and why bring up this old news at the staff meeting?

The director who is responsible for laser research seems to be drawing abstract doodles on his notepad. Perhaps it is a sideways laser he is drawing, but it could be that the notepad itself is sideways. Whichever, it is people as well as lasers that are about to be reoriented; fashion has changed. The story in the *New York Times*, quoting everyone about the lasting greatness of upside-down lasers, is now an embarrassment.

The history of technology is a tangled one, full of backtracking and wrong turns. Surely, that is to be expected, but the surprising thing to me is that we all seem to follow that



tortuous path together in simultaneous misadventure.

Everyone and every organization is afraid of being left out, like a child not belonging to the right clique. There is a fashion in technology, like the fashions in styles and clothes. That irresistible fashion travels across the world as an undercurrent with the speed of light.

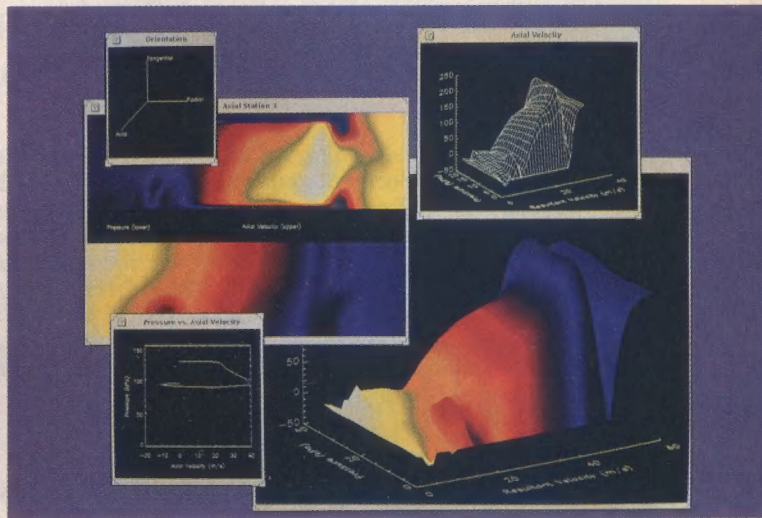
I remember being worried years ago that my company did not have a strong position in fluidic logic or in magnetorestrictive delay lines. Not so long ago, we were scooped on cold fusion, and were running hard to keep up with high-temperature superconductivity.

Fortunately, all that is in the past. Today we are on a firm course. The *New York Times* tells me that strained quantum-well lasers are what now matters.

Robert W. Lucky

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Calendar

Meetings, Conferences and Conventions

MARCH

Eighth Annual Applied Computational Electromagnetics Society Symposium (AP); March 17-19; Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif.; Pat Foster, Microwave and Antenna Systems, 16 Peachfield Rd., Malvern, Worcs., UK WR14 4AP;

(011+44) 684 574 057; fax, (011+44) 684 573 509.

Fourth International Conference on Microelectronic Test Structures (ED); March 17-19; Catamaran Resort Hotel, San Diego, Calif.; Michael W. Cresswell, National Institute of Standards and Technology, B360 Technology, Gaithersburg, Md. 20899;

301-975-2072; fax, 301-975-2128.

International Zurich Seminar on Digital Communications (Region 8); March 17-19; Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, ETH-Zentrum, Zurich; Anne Schicker, Box CH-8340 Hinwil, Switzerland; (41+1) 937 2447; fax, (41+1) 938 1557.

Multichip Module Conference (ED); March 17-20; Cocoon Grove, Santa Cruz, Calif.; Simon Wong, Stanford University, Electrical Engineering Department, CIS 202, Stanford, Calif. 94305; 415-725-3706.

Packaging, Interconnects, Optoelectronics for the Design of Parallel Computers (LEO); March 18-19; Hyatt Regency Woodfield, Schaumburg, Ill.; IEEE/LEOS, 445 Hoes Lane, Box 1331, Piscataway, N.J. 08855-1331.

International Workshop on Intelligent Signal Processing and Communication Systems (C); March 19-20; International Convention Center, Taipei, Taiwan; Naohisa Ohta, NTT Transmission Systems Laboratories, 1-2356, Take Yokosuka-shi 238-03, Japan; (81) 468 59 2072; fax, (81) 468 59 3014.

International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing (SP); March 23-26; San Francisco Marriott, San Francisco; Marcia A. Bush, Xerox PARC, 3333 Coyote Hill Rd., Palo Alto, Calif. 94304; 415-494-4391.

Sixth International Parallel Processing Symposium (C); March 23-26; Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills, Calif.; IEEE Computer Society, Conference Department, 1730 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-1903; 202-371-1013; fax, 202-728-0884.

IEEE members attend more than 5000 IEEE professional meetings, conferences, and conventions held throughout the world each year. For more information on any meeting in this guide, write or call the listed meeting contact. Information is also available from: Conference Services Department, IEEE Service Center, 445 Hoes Lane, Box 1331, Piscataway, N.J. 08855; 908-562-3878; submit conferences for listing to: Ramona Foster, *IEEE Spectrum*, 345 E. 47th St., New York, N.Y. 10017; 212-705-7305.

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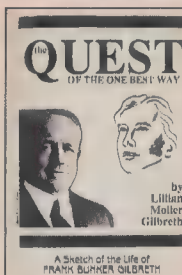
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Books

The father of 'the dozen,' by his wife

Ronald G. Greenwood

The Quest of the One Best Way: A Sketch of the Life of Frank B. Gilbreth. Gilbreth, Lillian Moller, Society of Women Engineers, New York, 1990, 88 pp., \$20.



Ernestine Gilbreth Carey, one of the 12 children of the famous engineering duo Frank and Lillian Gilbreth, was most thoughtful in sending me a copy of her late mother's recently republished book. I had read an older printing quite

some time ago and enjoyed rereading with equal enthusiasm. The book, only 88 pages long, is written with the most vibrant power by an author who was as much a wordsmith as she was mother and engineer.

Simply stated, the book is about the life of one of the United States' greatest engineers, who also happened to pioneer scientific management and studies of motion. The Gilbreths are famous for their use of photographs and other techniques to study motion so as to improve the speed and lessen the fatigue of doing work; out of these studies sprang the fields of ergonomics and fatigue study. (A number of Gilbreth photos can be found in an outstanding 1989 book, Mike Mandel's *Making Good Time*, published by the California Museum of Photography at the University of California, Riverside.)

Another researcher, Frederick W. Taylor, was instrumental in time studies of work. Although I wrote a book on Taylor, my "heroes" are the Gilbreths, for they brought a warmth to engineering. The bad blood that existed in later years between Taylor and the Gilbreths is not mentioned, nor even hinted at. Lillian was much above that.

The book was first published around 1925, after Frank's untimely, but not unanticipated, death on July 14, 1924. My original copy was signed by Lillian and presented to Taylor's widow. This early printing, however, appears to have been quite limited; few libraries have copies and it rarely turns up in used-book stores. A reprinting was issued in the early 1950s, and in 1972, the now-dormant Hive Press offered another reprint; both also had very limited runs. This latest reprint was made possible by Yisrael Martin of Hive Press and the Society of Women Engineers in New York City.

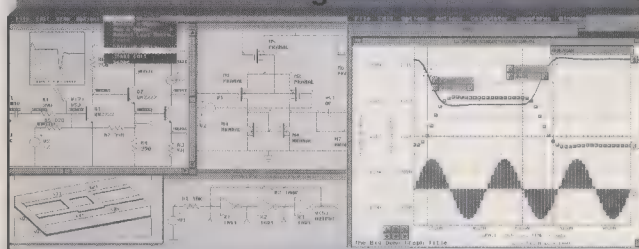
There's no doubt about it: this book is a love story, and it's fun to read. However, it is not the humorous account of the Gilbreth's work found in *Cheaper by the Dozen*, *Bells on their Toes*, or *Time Out for Happiness*, stories of the family as seen by two of the gifted children, Ernestine Gilbreth Carey and Frank B. Gilbreth Jr. Nor is it the story of Lillian and Frank's life together; Edna Yost's *Partners for Life* (1949) covered that.

This is Lillian's view of Frank: the engineer, humanitarian, father, and quester. It begins with his early life and his mother's quest for the best life and the best education for her children. Frank did, in fact, pass the entrance examination for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, but decided to go to work instead. His first day on the job, as a "gofer" at a construction site, he noticed six ways of laying bricks—a remarkable perception for a boy just five days past his 17th birthday.

After 10 years learning the construction trade, Frank branched out on his own on April Fool's day, 1895. First it was the construction business, then it was scientific management, then writing, and then consulting and more writing. But always he was on a quest

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Books

for the "one best way" to do work. Books were written, business worked its ebb and flow, Frank consulted and interacted with the great pioneers of scientific management, and it's all mentioned in Lillian's account.

Far from being a narrowing influence, the one best way proved expansive, according to Lillian, partly because it so strongly emphasized "likenesses. It took plant problems in the production end, in the selling end, in the office end, in the financial end, everywhere throughout the plant and showed [them to be] alike."

The quest was also to make the family the one best family. Lillian noted that "as the children grew older, they began to have their own ideals, their own goals, and to look forward to their own Quests. This, too, brought valuable lessons. It is so easy to feel that only your life work is truly fascinating; that what you see to be the best and most beautiful is best and most beautiful for everyone. . . . The One Best Way. . . is a universal possession. It has individuality. It changes. It grows."

Ronald G. Greenwood is the F. James McDonald chaired professor of industrial management at GMI Engineering and Manage-

ment Institute in Flint, Mich. He is chair of the management history division of the Academy of Management, Mississippi State University, Miss. He recently coauthored Frederick Taylor, Father of Scientific Management: Myth and Reality, published by Business One Irwin, Homewood, Ill.

Coordinator: Glenn Zorpette

Recent books

Handbook of Quality Integrated Circuit Manufacturing. Zorich, Robert, Academic Press, San Diego, Calif., 1991, 583 pp., \$89.95.

Introductory Electronic Devices and Circuits: electron flow version, 2nd edition. Paynter, Robert T., Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1991, 1031 pp., \$50.67.

Fiber Optic Sensors: an Introduction for engineers and scientists. Ed. Udd, Eric, John Wiley & Sons, Somerset, N.J., 1991, 476 pp., \$69.95.

The 68000 and 68020 Microprocessors: architecture, software, and interfacing techniques. Triebel, Walter A., and Singh, Avatar, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1991, 477 pp., \$54.

Lotus 1-2-3/6: simplified. Bolocan, David, Windcrest Books, Blue Ridge Summit, Pa., 1991, 348 pp., \$22.95.

Digital Signal Processing: efficient convolution and Fourier transform techniques. Myers, D.G., Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1991, 355 pp., \$45.

Beginner's Guide to Reading Schematics, 2nd edition. Traister, Robert J., and Lisk, Anna L., Tab Books, Blue Ridge Summit, Pa., 1991, 129 pp., \$10.95.

Digital Signal Processing Applications: using the ADSP-2100 family. Ed. Mar, Amy, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1991, 611 pp., \$46.

An Introduction to Modern Electronics. Faissler, William L., John Wiley & Sons, Somerset, N.J., 1991, 512 pp., \$57.95.

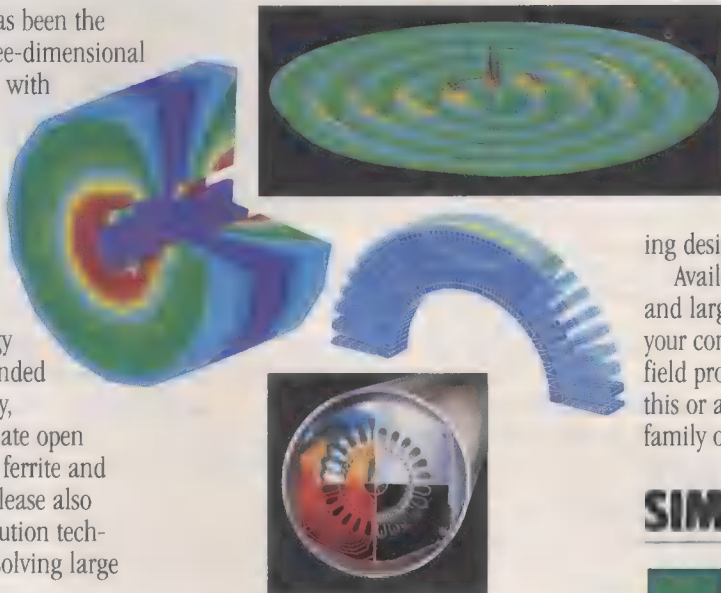
Digital Signal Processing Applications: with the TMS320 family, Vol. 3. Ed. Papamichalis, Panos E., Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1991, 561 pp., \$48.

Introduction to Electricity and Electronics: electron flow version, 3rd edition. Mottershead, Allen, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1991, 771 pp., \$51.

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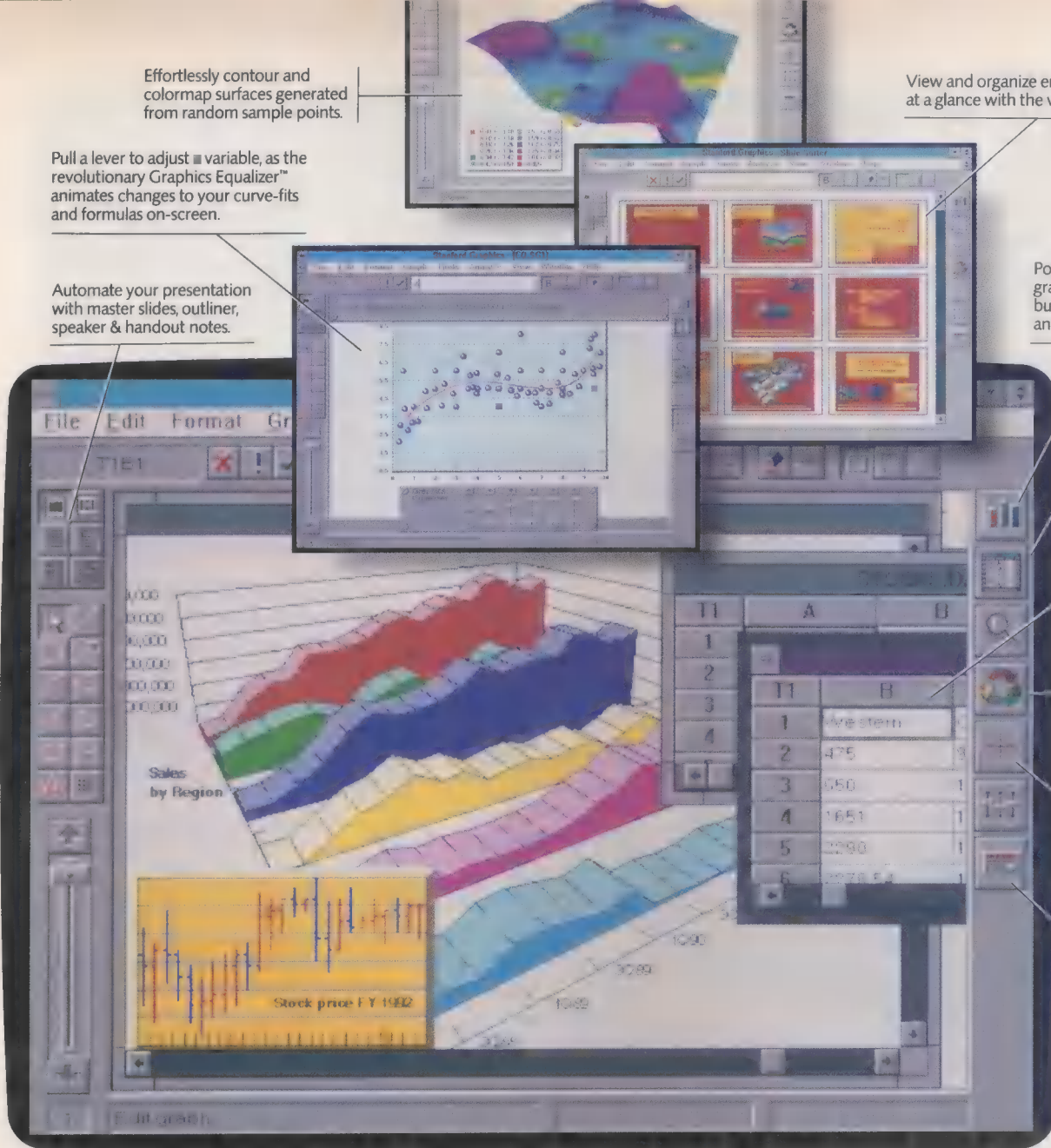
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Calendar

(Continued from p. 8)

Data Compression Conference (C); March 24-27; Cliff Hotel, Snowbird, Utah; IEEE Computer Society, Conference Department, 1730 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-1903; 202-371-1013; fax, 202-728-0884.

Position, Location and Navigation Symposium—Plans '92 (AES); March 24-27; Doubletree Hotel, Monterey, Calif.; Thomas E. Sanders, 160 Clover Circle,

Southampton, Pa. 18966; 215-441-2350.

Princeton Section Sarnoff Symposium (LEO, MTT et al.); March 27; David Sarnoff Research Center, Princeton, N.J.; IEEE/LEOS, 445 Hoes Lane, Box 1331, Piscataway, N.J. 08855-1331; 908-562-3893.

International Reliability Physics Symposium (ED); March 30-April 2; Town and Country Hotel, San Diego, Calif.; Harry Schafft, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Building 225, Room B360, Route 270, Quince Orchard Road, Gaithers-

burg, Md. 20899; 301-975-2234; fax, 301-948-4081.

International Symposium on Parallel Processing (C); March 30-April 2; Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills, Calif.; IEEE Computer Society, Conference Department, 1730 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-1903; 202-371-1013; fax, 202-728-0884.

IEEE/ASME Joint Railroad Conference (VT); March 31-April 2; Atlanta Hilton and Towers, Atlanta, Ga.; Joseph Castellani, AEG Westinghouse, 1501 Lebanon Church Rd., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15238; 412-655-5270.

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APRIL

11th Annual International Phoenix Conference on Computers and Communications (C, COM); April 1-3; Wyndham Paradise Valley Resort, Scottsdale, Ariz.; Joseph Urban, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, College Engineering and Applied Science, Arizona State University, Tempe, Ariz. 85287-5406; 602-965-2774; fax, 602-965-2751.

12th International Electronic Manufacturing Technology Symposium (CHMT); April 1-3; Congress Centrum Mainz, Mainz, Germany; Conference Secretariat, IEMT 1992, c/o CTI GmbH, Nymphenburger Strasse 88, D-8000 München 19, Germany; (49+89) 129 2003; fax, (49+89) 129 2009.

Network Operations and Management Symposium (COM); April 6-9; Peabody Hotel, Memphis, Tenn.; Jill Pancio, Pacific Bell, 7620 Convoy Court, San Diego, Calif. 92111; 619-268-6135; fax, 619-292-1509.

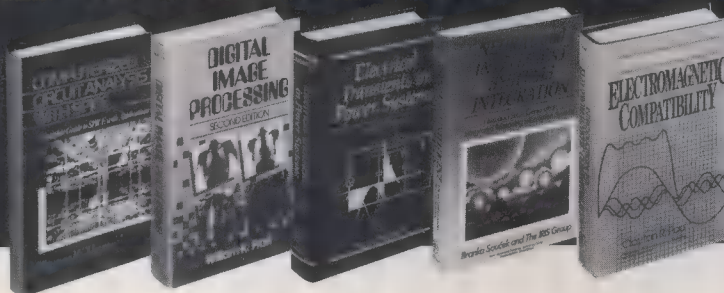
Southeastcon '92 (Region 3 et al.); April 12-15; Wynfrey Hotel, Birmingham, Ala.; Wayne Owen, South Central Bell, 600 N. 19th St., Birmingham, Ala. 35203; 205-321-2299.

Intermag '92 (MAG); April 13-16; Adams Mark Hotel, St. Louis, Mo.; Courtesy Associates Inc., 655 15th St., N.W., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20005; 202-639-5088.

International Conference on Computer Languages (C); April 20-23; Cathedral Hill Hotel, San Francisco; IEEE Computer Society, Conference Department, 1730 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-1903; 202-371-1013; fax, 202-728-0884.

Fourth International Conference on Indium Phosphide and Related Materials (ED); April 21-24; Newport Sheraton,

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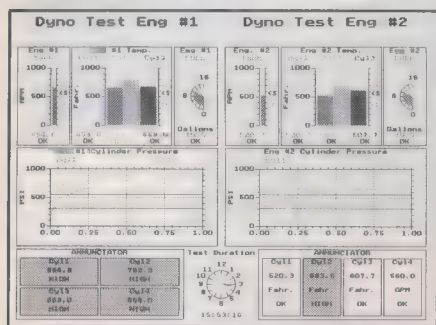
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Calendar

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Seventh Conference on Semi-Insulating III-V Materials (ED); April 21-24; Krystal Hotel, Ixtapa, Mexico; William Ford, Harris Microwave Semiconductor, 1530 McCarthy Blvd., Milpitas, Calif. 95035; 408-433-2222; fax, 408-432-3268.

Electrical Performance of Electronic Packaging (CHMT, MTT); April 22-24; Holiday Inn, Tucson, Ariz.; Paul Baltes, Engineering Professional Development; Harvil Building, Box 9, University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz. 85721; 602-621-5104; fax, 602-621-1441.

Workshop on Workstation Operating Systems—WWOS-III (C); April 23-24; Sheraton Royal Biscayne, Key Biscayne, Fla.; IEEE Computer Society, Conference Department, 1730 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-1903; 202-371-1013; fax, 202-728-0884.

Scalable High Performance Computing Conference (C); April 26-29; Williamsburg Hilton and National Conference Center, Williamsburg, Va.; IEEE Computer Society, Conference Department, 1730 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-1903; 202-371-1013; fax, 202-728-0884.

MAY

Custom Integrated Circuits Conference—CICC '92 (ED); May 3-6; Westin Copley, Boston; Laura Morihara, Convention Coordinating, 47-344 Waihee Rd., Kaneohe, Oahu, Hawaii 96744; 808-239-4790.

Industrial and Commercial Power Systems Technical Conference (IA et al.); May 4-7; Sheraton-Station Square Hotel, Pittsburgh; Dave Shipp, Westinghouse Corp., 750 Trumbull Dr., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15205; 412-429-7430.

International Conference on Computer Systems and Software Engineering—Compeuro '92 (C, Region 8 et al.); May 4-7; Netherlands Congress Center, The Hague; P.M. Dewilde, Delft University of Technology, Department of Electrical Engineering, Mekelweg 4, 2628 CD Delft, The Netherlands; (31+15) 7850 89.

Infocom '92 (C, COM); May 4-8; Congress Center, Florence, Italy; Maurizio Decina, Consorzio Cefriel, Viale Sarca 202,

20126 Milan, Italy; (39+2) 661 00083; fax, (39+2) 661 00448.

Fifth IEEE Workshop on Metropolitan Area Networks (COM); May 10-13; Hotel Capo Taormina, Taormina, Italy; Luciano Lenzi, CNUCE, 36 Via S. Maria, 56100 Pisa, Italy; (39+50) 593 245.

International Symposium on Circuits and Systems—ISCAS '92 (CAS); May 10-13; Sheraton Harbor Island Hotel, San Diego, Calif.; Stanley A. White, 433 E. Avenida Cordoba, San Clemente, Calif. 92672; 714-498-5519.

International Conference on Robotics and Automation (RA); May 10-15; Acropolis Convention Center, Nice, France; Harry Hayman, Box 3216, Silver Spring, Md. 20918; 301-236-5621; fax, same number; 301-236-5621 after March 31.

Microwave Power Tube Conference (ED); May 11-13; Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif.; Ralph Nadell, Palisades Institute, 201 Varick St., New York, N.Y. 10014; 212-620-3341; fax, 212-620-3379.

Vehicular Technology Conference (VT, Denver Section); May 11-13; Regency Hyatt Hotel, Denver, Colo.; Jim Schroeder, Department of Engineering, University of Denver, 2390 S. York St., Denver, Colo. 80208-0177; 303-871-3519.

Electro '92 (Region 1 et al.); May 12-14; Hynes Convention Center, Boston; Electronic Conventions Management, 8110 Airport Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90045; 213-215-3976; fax, 800-877-2668.

Instrumentation and Measurement Technology Conference (IM et al.); May 12-14; Meadowlands Hilton Hotel, Secaucus, N.J.; Robert Myers, 3685 Motor Ave., Suite 240, Los Angeles, Calif. 90034; 213-287-1463; fax, 213-287-1851.

International Symposium on Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology—ISSMT '92 (ED); May 14-15; The Hotel New Otani, Japan; Tadahiro Ohmi, Tohoku University, Department of Electronics, ASA-Aoba, Aramaki, Sendai 980, Japan; fax, (081) 022 224 2549.

Symposium on Worldwide Advances in Communication Networks (COM); May 14-15; George Mason University, Fairfax, Va.; Telecommunications Laboratory, ECE Department, George Mason University, Fairfax, Va. 22030-4444; 703-993-1566; fax, 703-993-1521.

42nd Electronic Components and
(Continued on p. 12H)

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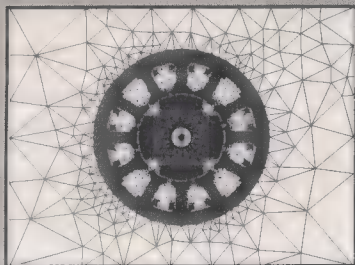
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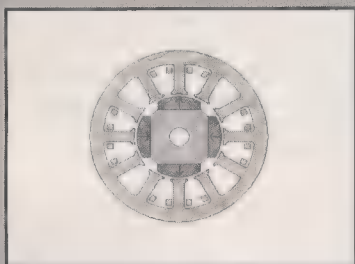
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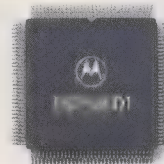
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Calendar

VLSI Technology Symposium (ED); June 2-4; Westin Hotel, Seattle, Wash.; James Clemens, AT&T Bell Laboratories, 600 Mountain Ave., Murray Hill, N.J. 07974; 908-582-2800.

Second International Symposium on Atomic Layer Epitaxy (ED); June 3-5; Raleigh Marriott, Raleigh, N.C.; Salah M. Bedair, Department of Electrical Engineering, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C. 27695-7911; 919-515-5704; fax, 919-515-3027.

Workshop on Combinations of Genetic Algorithms and Neural Networks (NN); June 6; Sheraton Inn Harbor, Baltimore, Md.; J. David Schaffer, Phillips Laboratories, 345 Scarborough Rd., Briarcliff Manor, N.Y. 10510; 914-945-6168.

International Symposium on Electrical Insulation (DED); June 7-10; Omni Inner Harbor Hotel, Baltimore, Md.; D. Randy James, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Box 2008, Building 3147, MS-6070, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37831-6070; 615-574-0266/6213.

Fifth Human Factors and Power Plants (PE); June 7-11; Marriott Hotel, Monterey, Calif.; Robert Starkey, B&W Nuclear Service, 3315 Old Forest Rd., Lynchburg, Va. 24501; 804-385-2905.

International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (NN); June 7-11; Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Md.; Nomi Feldman, Meeting Management, 5665 Oberlin Dr., Suite 110, San Diego, Calif. 92121; 619-453-6222.

Pulp and Paper Industry Conference (IA); June 8-12; Portland Marriott, Portland, Ore.; Edward Kayfes, Harris Group Inc., 1750 N.W. Front Ave., Box 5819, Portland, Ore. 97228; 503-228-7200; fax, 503-228-0422.

Sixth International Conference on Metalorganic Vapor Phase Epitaxy (LEO); June 8-12; Hyatt Cambridge, Cambridge, Mass.; IEEE/LEOS, 445 Hoes Lane, Box 1331, Piscataway, N.J. 08855-1331; 908-562-3893.

29th ACM/IEEE Design Automation Conference (C, CAS); June 8-12; Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, Calif.; IEEE Computer Society, Conference Department, 1730 Massachusetts Ave., Washington, D.C. 20036-1903; 202-371-1013; fax, 202-728-0884.

Conference on Precision Electromagnetic Measurements (IM); June 9-12;

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Calendar

CNIT Paris la Defense, Paris, France; Jean Blouet, Bureau National de Metrologie, 22 Rue Monge, F-75005 Paris, France; (33+1) 46 34 4840; fax, (33+1) 46 34 4863.

Symposium on Computer-Based Medical Systems (C, EMB); June 14-17; Washington Duke Inn and Golf Club, Durham, N.C.; IEEE Computer Society, Conference Department, 1730 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C.

20036-1903; 202-371-1013; fax, 202-728-0884.

International Conference on Communications—ICC/Supercomm '92 (COM, Chicago Section); June 14-18; Chicago Hilton and Towers, Chicago; P. Douglas Latner, Ameritech Services, 2000 W. Ameritech Center Dr., Hoffmans Estate, Ill. 60196-1025; 708-248-5302; fax, 708-248-3977.

International Semiconductor Manufacturing Science Symposium (ED);

June 15-17; Moscone Convention Center, San Francisco; Corinne Cargnoni, SEMI, 805 E. Middlefield Rd., Mountain View, Calif. 94043; 415-940-6950.

Fourth International Conference on Software Engineering and Knowledge Engineering (C); June 17-19; Europa Palace Hotel, Capri, Italy; IEEE Computer Society, Conference Department, 1730 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-1903; 202-371-1013; fax, 202-728-0884.

Solid-State Sensor and Actuator Workshop (ED); June 21-25; Marriott Hilton Head Resort, Hilton Head Island, S.C.; Steve Senturia, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Room 39-567; Department of Electrical Engineering, Cambridge, Mass. 02139; 617-253-6869; fax, 617-253-9606.

International Workshop on Hardware Fault-Tolerance in Multiprocessors (C); June 22-23; University of Massachusetts, Amherst; IEEE Computer Society, Conference Department, 1730 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-1903; 202-371-1013; fax, 202-728-0884.

50th Annual Device Research Conference (ED); June 22-24; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.; Sam Shichijo, Texas Instruments Inc., 12840 Hillcrest, Suite 200, Dallas, Texas 75230; 214-917-7402.

20th Power Modulator Symposium (ED); June 23-25; Myrtle Beach Hilton Hotel, Myrtle Beach, S.C.; Mark Goldfarb, Palisades Institute, 2011 Crystal Dr., Suite 307, Arlington, Va. 22202; 703-769-5588.

American Control Conference (CS); June 24-26; Westin Hotel, Chicago; Dale Seborg, Chemical and Nuclear Engineering, University of California, Santa Barbara, Calif. 93106; 805-961-3352.

JULY

Fifth International Vacuum Microelectronics Conference (ED); July 13-17; Hotel Chateau Wilhelminenberg, Vienna, Austria; Johannes Mitterauer, Technical University of Wien, Institut für Allgemeine, Elektrotechnik und Elektronik, Gusshausstrasse 27-29, A-1040 Wein, Austria; (43+1) 588 01 3682; fax, (43+222) 505 2666.

Nuclear and Space Radiation Effects Conference (NPS); July 13-17; Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Orleans, La.; James R. Schwank, Sandia National Laboratories, Division 1332, Box 5800, Albuquerque, N.M. 87185; 505-844-2150; fax, 505-846-5004.

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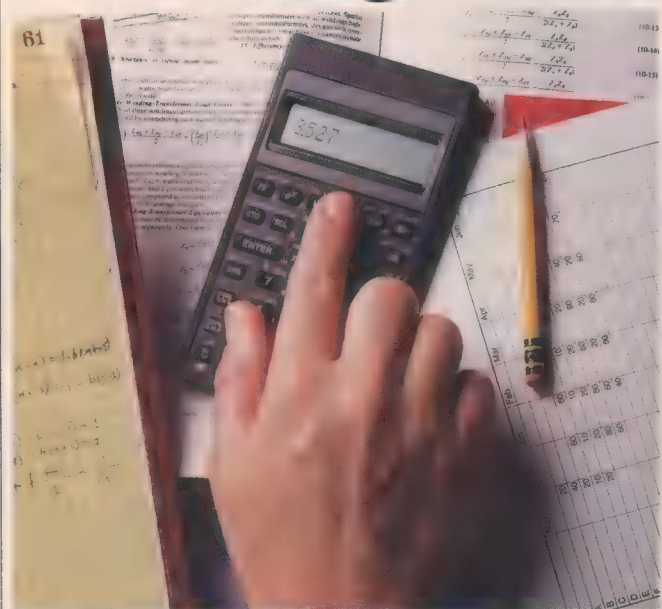


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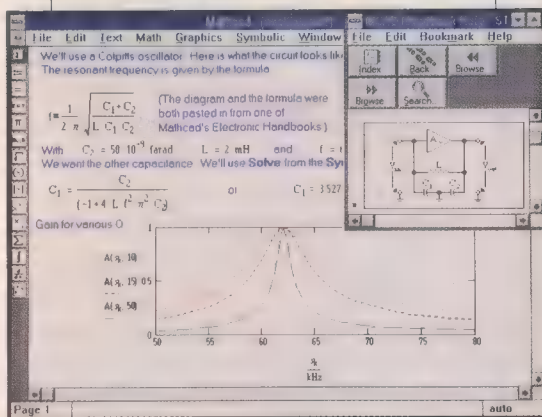
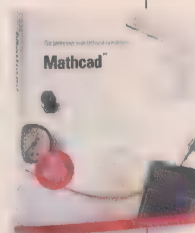
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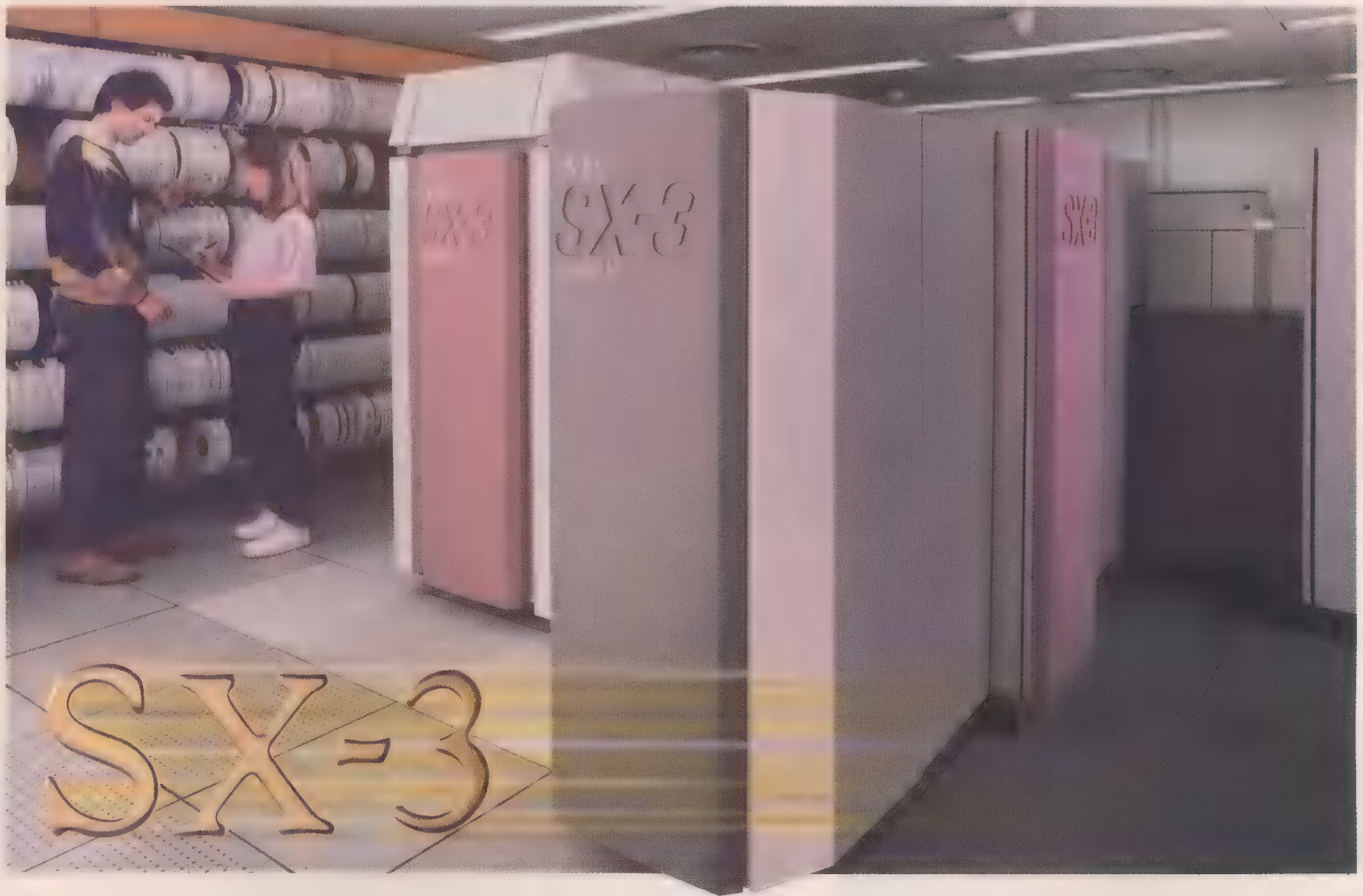
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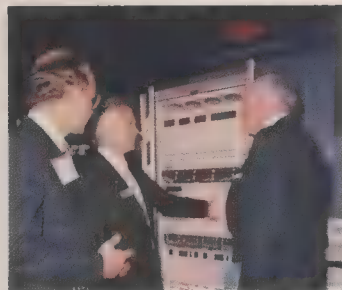
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Risk and reason

I am not at all sure I understand what M. Granger Morgan's review of *Technological Risk* [November, p. 11] is trying to say. He devotes 10 paragraphs to criticizing [author Harold W.] Lewis for his failure to reference social science research on risk perception and then dismisses "the best part of the book" (about half of it) in one paragraph.

While the results of risk perception research are intellectually interesting, I am not sure what, if any, value it adds to determining public, or for that matter private, policy. For example, I can find all kinds of good reasons based on equity, personal control, knowledge, and immediacy for not using my seat belt, but I still hook it up each time I get into a car. Such reasoning seems to me to be counting on luck, and yet Morgan agrees that we should not do this.

As an attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council argued about Alar on apples: if a person perceives something as a risk, then it is a risk. Is that the kind of thinking we should be using? There is a lot of sloppy thinking in our society today, and Lewis' book should help in clearing up some of that; the social sciences are only clouding the issues.

M. F. Moon
Orange, Calif.

M. Granger Morgan replies:

Moon begins by saying "I am not at all sure I understand what Morgan's review . . . is trying to say" and closes by observing "...there is a lot of sloppy thinking [about risk] in our society today . . . the social sciences are only clouding the issues." What my review was trying to say is that the latter is not true, and it is unfortunate that Lewis' book did not do as much as it might have to help readers like Moon understand why.

How to succeed in business

In days of yore, software engineers were praised and promoted for writing and debugging code. Times change. Today, in my department, only the weaker performers write code; the more talented and ambitious of us get ahead by making presentations with Vugraphs.

Since they are so crucial to career success, Vugraphs deserve to be studied more formally. Why don't engineering schools have departments of Vugraph engineering? Their students would have ■ leg up in the

real world. Courses would include: The Importance of Vugraphs in Presentations, Projector Operations, Pleasing Your Boss, Pleasing Your Boss's Boss, Making Your Boss's Enemies Look Bad, Vugraph Hardware, Presentation Software, Vugraph Layout and Design, and Vugraph Management.

Many talented engineers are passed over for promotion because of their weak Vugraphs. Engineering schools could reverse the tide by teaching Vugraph presentation skills to new and existing engineers.

David Levner
Rego Park, N.Y.

Working in the real world

Robert Lucky's "Reflections" [November, p. 6] struck a chord, one that has concerned me since my graduation from college in 1978. He asked the rhetorical question, "What's real anymore?" and lamented the intrusion of software into real-world educational labs.

One aspect of electrical engineering, however, is still very much hands-on, and will continue to be so for quite some time. This area, increasingly neglected by the educational community, is power engineering.

My real lament is that this most fundamental of electrical engineering disciplines has gradually lost its appeal to students, primarily because it is commonly viewed as ■ mature technology and therefore has seen its support continually decrease. Many fine universities have even dropped their power engineering program.

Electrical engineers can now graduate without ever having been exposed to even the most basic tenets of power system engineering. One result of this lack of exposure is that the electrical utility industry and its suppliers are being confronted with an ever-decreasing pool of qualified young engineers who could fill the gaps left by attrition, not to mention new positions ■ they arise.

Lucky concludes his column with a summary of a virtual world, with everything being done by mirrors. While this may be ever more the case in the areas dominated by software and semiconductors, silicon and program code will never be able to produce or transmit the vast amounts of energy required to support our daily life. Software is already very valuable in the engineering, operation, and control of power systems, but electromagnetic devices (generators and transformers), conductors, and insulators are still very much not virtual.

Many of the traditions in the power sys-

tem industry are changing, offering plenty of opportunities to apply new technology to the generation, transmission, conservation, and control of energy. With social and environmental issues making it increasingly difficult for utility companies to construct new power plants and transmission lines, this seemingly mature field is going through a quiet rebirth.

There are many bright students who wish to study electrical engineering, but also have ■ knack or desire for hands-on application of technology. I encourage these students to consider a career in power systems engineering, a field that has many opportunities for those who wish to "make a difference." Not only will they find interesting challenges, but also they will find themselves to be part of a relatively small group of young engineers in ■ important career field. Perhaps more crucial, though, is that they will be making valuable contributions to the production and delivery of the energy that drives not only our economy but our daily lives as well.

Charles W. Rogers
Jackson, Mich.

Addendum

On p. 37 of the February issue, the "To probe further" [of the boundary-scan article] should have included the IEEE Educational Activities videotape VC 28, "Chip to System Testability Access," broadcast March 1, 1989. The videotape is available in PAL or NTSC format. —Ed.

Correction

On p. 38 of the January issue, the titles of the two bar charts were reversed. The top chart actually shows the world's top 10 telecommunications services companies (64 percent of the market); the bottom chart shows the world's top 10 telecommunications equipment makers (73 percent of the market). —Ed.

Readers are invited to comment in this department on material previously published in *IEEE Spectrum*; on the policies and operations of the IEEE; and on technical, economic, or social matters of interest to the electrical and electronics engineering profession. Short, concise letters are preferred. The Editor reserves the right to limit debate on controversial issues. Contacts: Forum, *IEEE Spectrum*, 345 E. 47th St., New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A.; fax, 212-705-7453. The Comppmail address is *ieeespectrum*. The computer bulletin board number is 212-705-7308 and the password is SPECTRUM; for more information, call 212-705-7305 and ask for the Author's Guide.

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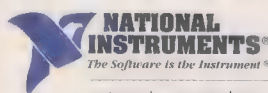
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Circle No. 17

Speakout

Scientific savvy urged on State

Calling scientific and technological understanding the prime tools for world leadership in the coming decades, the Carnegie Commission on Science, Technology, and Government in a report in January recommended transforming U.S. Government agencies, especially the State Department, into "more technologically literate navigators." The goal: to exploit rapid technological change and integrate science and technology (S&T) into international affairs. Highlights of the report, Science and Technology in U.S. International Affairs, follow:

The U.S. is deeply and irreversibly embedded in the world economy—and in most respects this is an asset. Yet the asset must be clearly related to foreign policies. U.S. international negotiations must continue to build fair "rules of the game" for the development of the technologies that underlie economic competition.

For economic reasons alone, the overall scope of U.S. foreign policy aims has been growing. International trade negotiators in the 1990s must wrestle with dramatically new opportunities. These range from low to high technology, and from food exports to computer chip imports.

In the early 1960s, for example, the combined value of imports and exports was only about 10 percent of gross national product (GNP). By the late 1980s, this had grown to more than 25 percent. Exports exceeded 12 percent of GNP in 1989 and must grow further if the economy is to thrive. Hundreds of thousands of jobs are at stake. Diplomacy dealing with these economic issues inevitably involves understanding the role of technology in the economy.

Military issues will also become more complex in foreign policy. U.S. spending for national security continues at almost US \$300 billion per year, and worldwide exports of arms show few signs of abating. The planned sharp decrease in defense spending may call for even more complex integration of defense plans with civilian concerns in foreign policy.

The Defense Department has had 600 bilateral basic research agreements with about 20 countries. It also has co-development agreements worth [up] to hundreds of millions of dollars, and its annual spending on international S&T is \$2 billion.

No matter how this activity may change with policy and budget shifts in the next few

years, one thing is clear: Desert Storm's lessons about the power of military technology must be applied with subtlety and prudence at the intersection of plans for defense cooperation and foreign policy.

Further, direct military aid to the Third World—about \$8 billion currently—will surely change character in the 1990s. Developing countries will more frequently think in terms of trade, finance, and immigration, rather than in terms of East-West geopolitics and military alliances. Astute analysis of high-tech and low-tech arms trading on a global scale will be required, as may entirely new concepts for limiting the arms trade and containing conflicts.

Altogether, the U.S. will spend in 1992 more than \$150 billion on research and development, with about 45 percent funded by the federal government. Almost three-quarters of the effort is being carried out by the private sector. But national R&D is being carried out increasingly in an international setting.

Developed countries seek exchanges of (and deals with) each other's R&D. U.S. firms seek alliances with foreign firms and universities are in contact with leading investigators around the world. Developing countries seek cooperation with the United States in every scientific field and especially on the administration of market-competitive R&D enterprises.

To cope with the growing calls for R&D partnerships, State's role in charting foreign policy must include advocating international concerns among government agencies. To do this, State must have more than superficial familiarity with the texture of U.S. science and technology.

Accordingly, the report recommends:

- The President, aided by a year-long inquiry, should clarify the international responsibilities for science and technology among agencies and ensure that they're coordinated with foreign policy through the Department of State. Clear international responsibility for mission-oriented basic science should be given to agencies such as [the] Department of Energy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Department of Commerce, and National Institutes of Health, while the National Science Foundation manages many of the international basic science programs.
- Evaluate projects in Big Science and Little Science for their foreign policy implications. Any international mandates given to individual agencies—Commerce, for example—should be regularly assessed, updated, and woven together in order to promote the national interest for the future.
- Define afresh the U.S. international goals

(Continued on p. 20)

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the registration of them by learned
societies, that science is advanced.
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*James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879)
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Speakout

(Continued from p. 18)

for science and technology; bring increasingly important international programs into the mainstream throughout the S&T agencies of the government; and orchestrate use of the nation's full technical assets to fulfill the goals of American foreign policy.

For example, the nation can't go to meetings of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade with multiple viewpoints on selling computers and related services. Agriculture, Energy, the Agency for International Development, and Environmental Protection Agency shouldn't arrive in Brazil for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development with "independent" U.S. positions.

- Take steps to ensure that State Department officials have a lively awareness of S&T in planning foreign policy, administering diplomatic operations, and facilitating initiatives by the mission agencies. A new post, a Science and Technology Counselor reporting to the Secretary, should be created with functions comparable to the President's Science Advisor (whose position and office should be strengthened). Several S&T-related sectors and long-range planning should be consolidated under an Under Secretary for Economic and S&T Affairs. The number of Science Officers at embassies abroad must be increased—only about 25 missions now have full-time S&T staff.

- Set plans for the long-term nurturing of human resources throughout the government for work on global issues with a substantial scientific and technological character. In the State Department, this will require more aggressive recruiting of officers with technical backgrounds, more flexible exchanges with industry and universities, and incentives for careers in international S&T. A single International Science Service for all agencies might be created within the federal career structure.

- Increase the external research budget and advisory resources available to the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy, State, and other agencies for identifying those functions of foreign policy requiring technical expertise. Alone among the major agencies, State has no external intellectual infrastructure to assist its planning on a regular basis. State's present, almost moribund, Science and Technology Advisory Committee, must be invigorated.

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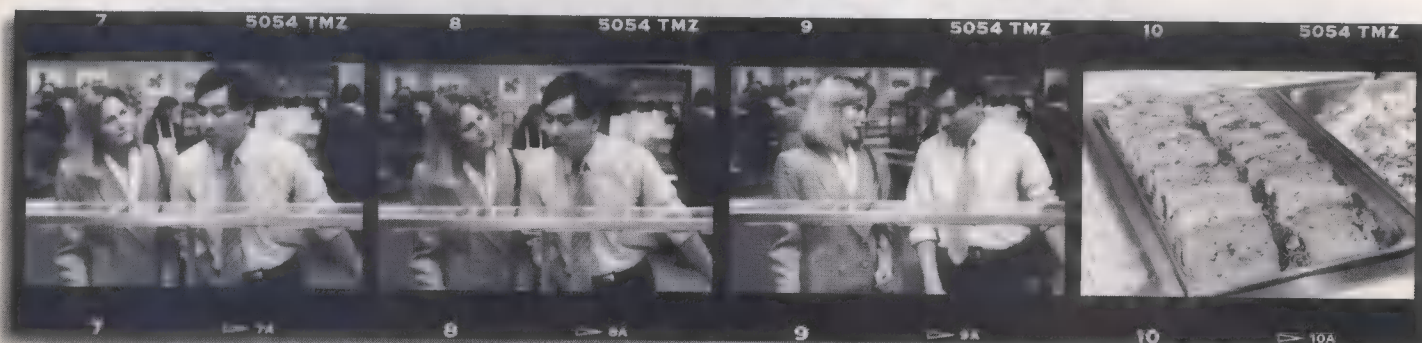
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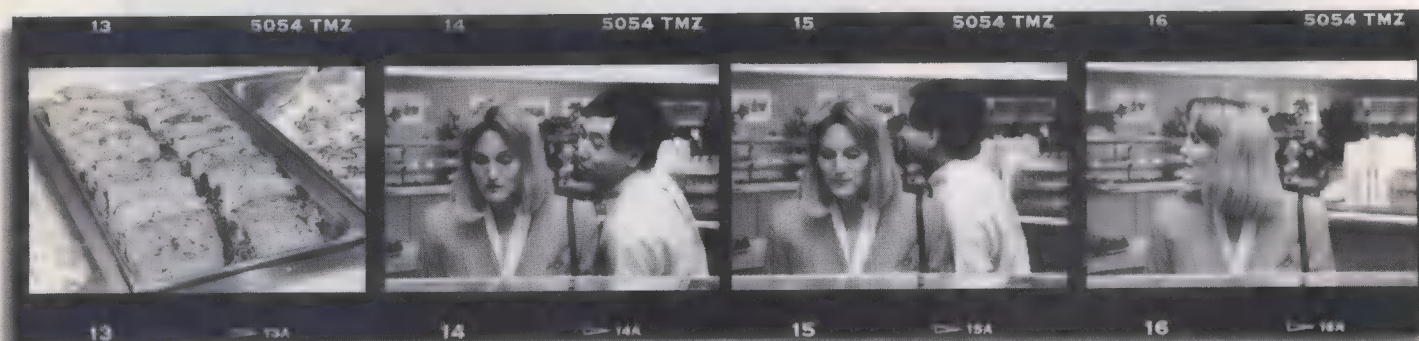
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Q415

Spectral lines

MARCH 1992 Volume 20 Number 3

Design, don't build?

Whatever other advanced nations may do in the wake of the cessation of the cold war, the United States has declared its intention to remain technically prepared to retain its position as the strongest world power—ready to defend itself and other countries if necessary to limit the spread of aggression. At the same time, a peace dividend, wanted in the United States and needed even more desperately in East European countries, should come from decreased spending for the military.

One way to do this, favored by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) and the current administration, is to curtail spending on the production of existing weapons but to retain programs to design, but not build, future systems. Some think this is fraught with hazards and foreboding implications.

For one thing, the "design, don't build" concept is nearly diametrically opposed to the DOD-endorsed concept of concurrent engineering, in which the processes by which a system is to be built are considered and developed in parallel with its design. Concurrent engineering depends upon designing, developing, testing, and building prototype parts and subsystems concurrently, not serially, while at the same time designing and developing the equipment to fabricate the new design. A prime objective of concurrent engineering is shortening the time from conception to deployment (or to

market in the case of ■ commercial development), so as to be more competitive (either in military preparedness or in the international commercial marketplace).

With "design, don't build," a completed but shelved design may, by the time it is considered for manufacture, be obsolete because of advances in manufacturing tools and techniques. Then who (or what) will serve as the corporate design memory to quickly and efficiently update the design? Even the best documentation of ■ design cannot replace ■ design team's collective experience and awareness of all its nuances. Once dispersed, such a resource is all but impossible to retrieve.

An amelioration of that shortcoming would be to periodically update the design. A costly process, it would nevertheless permit incorporating improvements in fundamental design ■ well as design changes due to improvements in manufacturing technology.

But with "design, don't build," what happens in ■ hot war? Critics respond that the time needed to gear up ■ shelved design for production would be much less if the particular system had been permitted to go to the prototype stage or, even better, to the point of building and fielding ■ few units.

Will the "design, don't build" concept attract those engineers who, seeking perfection and inclusion of the latest technology in all their projects, never want to release them

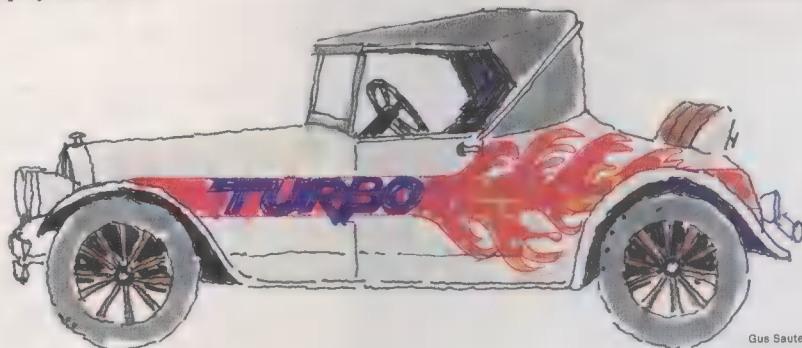
to production anyway? This match—of perfectionist designers with projects that may never be built—may be the ideal marriage. Even so, it may prove difficult for any designer to sustain the high level of enthusiasm that goes with the belief that a design will actually be built.

The viability of "design, don't build" may hinge on where design stops—just how far ■ design is taken. Will any hardware—components, subsystems, or otherwise—be fabricated and tested in field context? Or will "design, don't build" encourage a virtual reality in which ■■ unbuilt system will have to be tested in a simulated environment? For military equipment, this approach would represent war games at their most sophisticated.

One trouble, as the knowledgeable point out, is that real problems often occur at the margin between virtual reality and reality—"the real world." Dramatic historical examples of this can be seen in certain of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's failures, in which attempts to simulate operational environments did not work. Furthermore, failures often must be experienced before they can be circumvented.

Meanwhile, the gulf between the military and civilian design cultures would widen under "design, don't build," just at the time when concern is greatest about how to shrink the gap.

Donald Christiansen



Gus Sauter

DIGITAL VIDEO

Television, communications, and computer specialists are working to unsnarl the exchange of material in any video format



S

eated at his home entertainment workstation, Mike Multimedia is researching a report on high-speed rail transportation. In a window on the display he calls up a full-motion color video sequence of a French Train à

Grand Vitesse, which he had recorded earlier on a digital laserdisc from a high-definition TV network broadcast. The scenes lack the specific detail he's interested in, so he accesses the international databank in Chicago that stores high-speed rail digital video, and requests additional color sequences. They appear immediately in a second window of the display, but as he is reviewing them, the phone rings and an image of his wife appears in a third window. Her face is flushed, and she is obviously upset. "Honey, I've had an accident with the car, but I'm not hurt," she says, "but I'm afraid we're going to need a right front fender." Mike answers, "Don't worry about it, as long as you're O.K." Mike, his train of thought broken, is tempted to look in on a football game in a fourth window. After a few minutes, he switches to a full-screen display, and then guiltily goes back to his report. The phone rings again and a fax message from a source appears in another window, containing information to include in the report.

Visionary? Perhaps for now. But video compression, optical-fiber networks, digital recording, digital high-definition television, and the like—the technologies needed for such a scenario—are already in hand. Stirred by an explosion of digital imaging and com-

Ronald K. Jurgen Contributing Editor

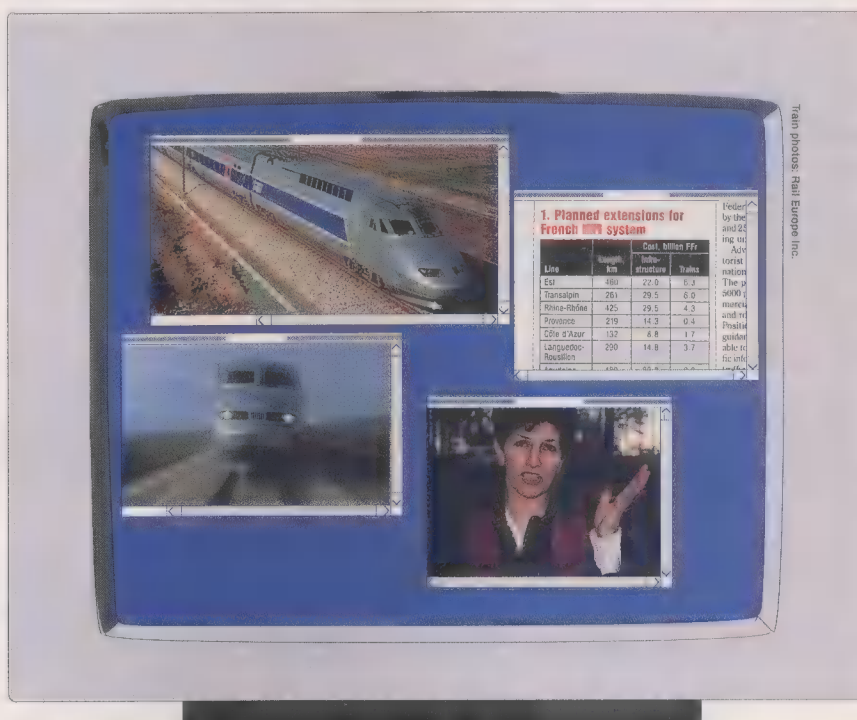
munications advances within just the past few years, those involved in TV production, broadcasting, cable, computer graphics and workstations, telecommunications, consumer electronics, you name it, are lining up to make reality serve their dreams.

November 1990 saw one of the first meetings organized so that engineers from various disciplines could debate how best to piece together the emerging world of digital imagery. The sponsors were the Advanced Television Systems Committee and IEEE-USA's Committee on Communications and Information Policy, and the venue was Washington, D.C.

COORDINATION AND HARMONIZATION. The Digital Systems Information Exchange, as it was called, explored digital developments, looked for areas of actual or potential commonality, and examined possible common frameworks for manipulating digital images "at various levels of performance, for a variety of applications, and in a fashion that takes best advantage of current and future developments in television, computers, and communications technologies." So said K.P. Davies, director of standards and technology for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., Montreal, in his keynote address. Davies emphasized that by now application-dependent developments of digital imaging require "coordination and harmonization if a future coherence is to be achieved."

Gary Demos of DemoGraFX in Culver City, Calif., another participant, also found harmonization desirable in light of the growing use of moving TV imagery on computer screens. Both live analog and compressed digital TV signals in various formats are being applied, he said, in such areas as medical imaging, military applications, aviation and flight control simulation, computer graphics, computer-aided design and engineering, aesthetic styling, and motion picture production.

Demos accordingly stressed the need to design an architecture for high-definition



A futuristic edu-tainment display could exhibit in windows, as simulated here, full-motion or still video from a variety of video formats.

television (HDTV) and high-resolution imaging (HRI) systems that would be scalable, extensible, and open. Scalability he defined as the ability to use a variety of resolutions, temporal rates, colorimetry, and intensity dynamic ranges. In other words, displays designed for one set of those parameters should be able to do a reasonable job of showing images produced at higher or lower values of resolutions, rates, color, and so forth.

Extensibility, according to Demos, referred to the ability of a framework of display formats or standards to embrace new requirements and applications. And an open architecture would support inputs and dis-

play parameters with many formats. (Extensibility and open architecture are discussed in some detail in the last article of this special report, p. 28.)

Two further Digital Systems Information Exchange meetings were held in March and September 1991, the latter with the sponsorship of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE) instead of the Advanced Television Systems Committee. By then, the committee's start-up function had become a standards function led by the society, which is based in White Plains, N.Y.

SMPTE's involvement was prompted by the keynote address at the March session. Michael J. Sherlock, president, operations and technical services, National Broadcasting Co. (NBC), New York City, challenged those attending with these words: "We need to find practical solutions. We need agreement on how information can be used to reconstruct images in a form which fits the requirements of the different businesses we are in."

Stanley N. Baron, managing director of technical development, NBC, and then SMPTE engineering vice president, responded by saying that SMPTE would investigate two areas: a protocol for a digital interface header/descriptor to permit digitized images to cross industry and standards boundaries, and a possible hierarchy of standards that would mesh industries' varying display requirements. It was further agreed that the research should be conducted within

Defining terms

CD-ROM XA: a compact-disc ROM extended architecture that specifies an encoding format (adaptive differential pulse code modulation) for storing audio information in a digital format.

CDTV: Commodore Dynamic Total Vision, a multimedia system.

Convertibility: capability of being converted to and from existing standards.

Discrete cosine transform: a form of coding used in most of the current image compression systems to reduce the number of bits that must be transmitted.

Extensibility: the capability of being extended to higher performance.

Huffman coding: a static set of minimum-redundancy integral-length bit strings.

Lossless compression: a means of compressing video data that ensures the data is exactly recoverable with no loss in image quality.

Multimedia: descriptive of the delivery of information that combines different content formats (motion video, audio, still images, graphics, animation, text, and so on).

RGB: red-green-blue. A type of computer color display output signal composed of separately controllable red, green, and blue signals, as opposed to composite video in which signals are combined prior to output.

Scalability: the capability of being placed in a graduated series of performance or resolution parameters.

YUV color system: a color-encoding scheme for natural pictures in which the luminance (Y) and chrominance (UV) are separate.

the standards activities of SMPTE.

With a standardized or universal header/descriptor, any video stream could be recognized by any device, whether a TV receiver, computer, or workstation. One segment of the descriptor would identify the type of video that had been received. If the receiving device contained the right kind of decoders, it could then display the received video. Other parts of the descriptor would specify the size of the data packet and might also include such information as copyright information and decoding algorithms.

The SMPTE Task Force on Headers/De-

scriptors investigated such factors as the header kernel, appropriate error-correcting codes, and block-length specification, and on Jan. 3 recommended a common protocol to the SMPTE Standards Committee for consideration at its meeting on Feb. 6. The SMPTE Task Force on Digital Image Architecture was still, at this writing, weighing an open system scalable to various performance levels and extensible to new technologies and had not yet recommended a structure for a hierarchy of digital standards to facilitate interoperation of high-resolution display systems.

The work on header/descriptors and digital image architecture, when finalized in standards, will expedite the development of products capable of exploiting to the fullest extent the various video formats. In the meantime, the existing standards or drafts of standards are also aiding the cause of interoperability.

There are products now available that perform some of the functions necessary for interoperability. Many of them are based on the standards described in the next section. Selected products are described in the final section.

SPECIAL REPORT / CONSUMER ELECTRONICS

An abundance of video formats

Achieving a universal descriptor and an interformat exchange structure are crucial to the promise of digital imaging

Even as the Digital Systems Information Exchange meetings were being held and task forces from the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE) began their work on headers/descriptors and digital image architecture, progress was being made on digital video standards. The three main ones concern still-picture compression, video teleconferencing, and full-motion compression on digital storage media. They have been proposed by the Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG), the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT), and the Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG), respectively. All are lossy techniques.

The JPEG standard is an algorithm for coding still pictures developed under the auspices of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). CCITT's Recommendation H.261 (also called p×64) specifies a method of communication for visual telephony. Both were described in some detail in the October issue of *IEEE Spectrum* [see To probe further, p. 30].

JPEG is a general-purpose compression standard designed to meet the needs of continuous-tone, still-image applications. It is applicable to such uses as photovideotex, desktop publishing, the graphic arts, color facsimile, newspaper wirephoto transmission, and medical imaging.

Recommendation H.261 (p×64) is a stan-

dard for covering the entire channel capacity of the integrated-services digital network (ISDN). The p×64 designation refers to $p \times 64$ kb/s, where p can have any value from 1 to 30. The standard is intended for use in videophone and videoconferencing. If p equals 1 or 2 (due to severely limited available bit rate), only videophone is appropriate. But if p is equal to 6 or more, the available bit rate is higher and more complex pictures can be transmitted.

MPEG FOR FULL-MOTION VIDEO. MPEG, the third digital video standard, can be applied to such storage media as compact-disc ROM (CD ROM), digital audio tape, Winchester disk, and writable optical discs and on such communication channels as ISDN and local-area networks (LANs). MPEG addresses the compression of video signals at about 1.5 Mb/s and of a digital audio signal at the rates of 64, 128, and 192 kb/s per channel. It also deals with the synchronization and multiplexing of multiple compressed audio and

IEEE's Consumer Electronics Society.

To reduce temporal redundancy, Le Gall said, the standard relies on block-based motion compensation, while to reduce spatial redundancy, it relies on transform-based compression. Motion compensation is based on both pure predictive and interpolative codings. Motion information is based on 16-by-16 blocks, is compressed by using variable-length codes for maximum efficiency, and is transmitted along with the spatial information. The variable-length coding takes advantage of the strong spatial redundancy of the motion vector field and is applied to further compress the results of the discrete cosine transform (DCT) and to reduce the impact of the motion information on the total bit rate. Only those codes with a fairly high probability of occurrence are coded with a variable-length code.

Since the DCT decorrelates the data, its output after quantization is likely to have long runs of zeros. These can be efficiently encoded by a run-length encoder, which simply gives the number of consecutive zeros before a non-zero number. Run-length coding gives a significant degree of compression.

Le Gall said that three types of pictures are considered in MPEG: intrapictures (I frames) that provide access points for random access with moderate compression; predicted pictures (P frames) that are coded with reference to a past picture and are used as a reference for future predicted pictures; and interpolated or bidirectional pictures (B frames) that require both a past and a future reference for prediction. Clearly the three picture types are related [Fig. 1].

MPEG exploits the temporal redundancy of video signals through motion-compensated prediction. The assumption here is that the blocks of the current picture can be modeled as a translation of blocks of some previous picture. Also used is motion-compensated interpolation, which adds a

A universal header/descriptor would make any video stream recognizable by any device

video bit streams.

The MPEG standard is generic, that is, it is independent of any one application, said Didier Le Gall, director of research at C-Cube Microsystems, San Jose, Calif., at the Third Annual Electronic Industries Association Digital Video Workshop. The meeting was held in Arlington, Va., in October by the Electronic Industries Association, Washington, D.C., with the participation of the

correction term to a combination of ■ past and future picture reference. Motion-compensated interpolation makes possible a high degree of compression.

To reduce spatial redundancy, MPEG uses DCT coding, as in JPEG and H.261. DCT transforms a block of pixel intensities into a block of frequency transform coefficients. The transform is applied in turn to new blocks until the entire image has been transformed. At the decoder in the receiver, the inverse transformation is applied to recover the original image.

MPEG also uses visually weighted quantization—that is, coarser quantizers can be used for the higher frequencies because subjective perception of quantization error varies greatly with frequency. According to Le Gall, the exact quantization matrix used depends on parameters such as the characteristics of the intended display, the viewing distance, and the amount of noise in the source.

The MPEG standard specifies a layered structure, syntax, and bit stream for video on digital storage media. The layered structure separates entities in the bit stream that are logically distinct. The syntax provides for application-specific features without penalizing applications that do not need those features.

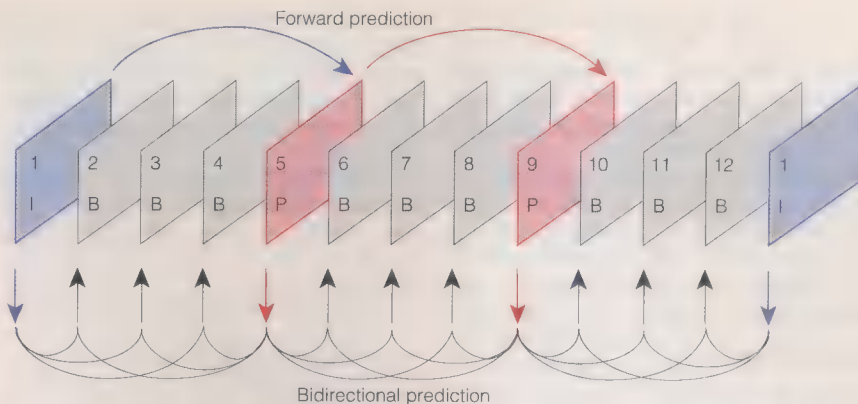
An example of bit-stream customization given by Le Gall involved providing random access to, and the ability to edit, video stored on a computer hard disk. He explained that such operations would require many access points. Groups of pictures would be coded with ■ fixed number of bits to make editing possible.

The MPEG syntax contains six layers, each of which supports functions such as DCT, motion compensation, resynchronization, and random access point. The syntax also defines the bit stream, which is characterized by two fields: bit rate and buffer size. The latter specifies the minimum buffer size necessary to decode the bit stream within the context of the video buffer verifier. It is an abstract model of decoding used to verify that an MPEG bit stream can be decoded with reasonable buffering and delay requirements.

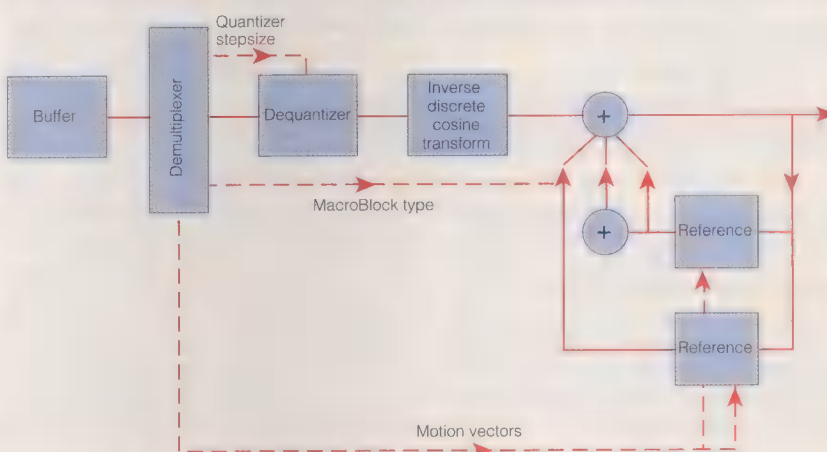
Le Gall explained that encoders and decoders are not specified *per se* in the proposed MPEG standard. In other words, an encoder is an MPEG encoder if it can produce a legal MPEG bit stream, and ■ decoder is an MPEG decoder if it decodes an MPEG bit stream satisfactorily [Fig. 2]. The standard defines only the bit-stream syntax and the decoding process. This allows for enhancements in encoder performance as technology advances.

A new phase of MPEG committee activities is addressing the need for ■ video compression algorithm for higher-resolution signals at bit rates up to 10 Mb/s.

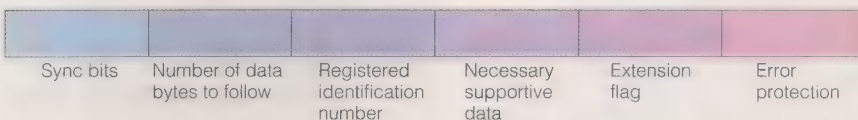
OTHER VIDEO FORMATS. In addition to JPEG, H.261, and MPEG, ■ number of video formats must be taken into account when con-



[1] Display order for frame groups for MPEG—one of three main digital video standards—consists of interframe coding based on intrapictures (I), predicted pictures (P), and interpolated, bidirectional prediction (B). Here an intrapicture is inserted after every 11 frames and the ratio of interpolated pictures to intra- or predicted pictures is three to one. Organization of the pictures is flexible and depends upon such parameters as coding delay.



[2] A typical MPEG decoder would contain a receiving buffer for the coded bit stream used to verify that an MPEG bit stream is decodable with ■ reasonable buffering and delay requirement. The bit stream is demultiplexed into overhead information (motion information, quantizer stepsize, macroblock type, and quantized digital cosine transform, or DCT, coefficients). The DCT coefficients are dequantized and fed to an inverse DCT unit. A reconstructed waveform from the IDCT is added to the result of the prediction. Two reference pictures are used to form the predictor.



[3] A basic header/descriptor system for enabling recognition of a digital video signal consists of header identification and length, service identification, any supporting data needed, an extension flag to indicate if additional blocks of data should be accessed, and error protection.

sidering the problem of system interoperability. They include the analog television formats of NTSC, PAL (phase alternating line), and Secam (sequential color and memory), the digital formats of proposed HDTV broadcast systems for the United States, and proprietary multimedia digital video formats. The last-named include Digital Video Interactive (DVI) from Intel, Compact Disc Interactive (CD-I) from Philips Consumer Electronics, CDTV from Commodore Electronics, and PhotoCD from Kodak.

For the family of multimedia products

coming on the market, the Interactive Multimedia Association (IMA), based in Washington, D.C., has been active in promoting industrywide compatibility. In the fall of 1988, it formed the IMA Compatibility Committee to develop recommendations for multimedia applications that would permit their portability across a variety of hardware-software platforms. The committee has focused first on interactive video applications in the MS-DOS environment, but plans later to study other operating systems and multimedia technologies.

A first draft of recommended practices was produced in August 1989 and a revised draft in February 1990. The final document, "Recommended Practices for Multimedia Portability," Release R 1.1, was published in October 1990. Among its recommendations are commands for general system services, visual management, videodisc players, and X-Y-input devices. The recommended practices furnish platform independence but not device interoperability (plug-and-play). (Device interoperability requires classes of related devices to furnish functionally identical services at the component level.)

Platform independence lets applications run unchanged on any platform based on the same general class of host computers. They can do so only if the different hardware and software platforms show consistent behavior at the application-interface level. Furnishing that consistency is the goal of the interface and command definitions.

In November 1990, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), Washington, D.C., incorporated the IMA specification in Military Standard 1379 Appendix D. On March 14 last year, the DOD issued an instruction (1322.20) entitled "Development and Management of Interactive Courseware." That instruction mandates that all interactive multimedia courseware and hardware systems purchased by the DOD must comply with the IMA specifications. And the IMA has coordinated its compatibility efforts with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Gaithersburg, Md.

The efforts being put into standards like JPEG, H.261, and MPEG, and the work on multimedia platform interoperability go far to make digital video more generally usable. But before digital video interchange can become widely possible, a standardized header/descriptor and a reference structure for interformat exchange are essential. They

Standards are being developed for coding still pictures, for video conferencing, and for full-motion video

would enable the recognition of any video signal so that the receiving device could display it—if that device had the necessary decoding circuits.

At this writing, the SMPTE draft standards for the two elements were not yet available. But *Spectrum* did talk about them with NBC's Stanley N. Baron. Baron told us that the SMPTE header/descriptor standard would define a single digital transport protocol for all services, each of which would be uniquely identified within the context of the protocol. A key feature of the protocol, he said, is that it permits the bypassing of any data blocks pertaining to services "for which there is no interest, for which access

is denied, or which are not defined in the receiver in question."

Baron cited key functions of the header and descriptor. The header would:

- Identify by a registered number the encoded standard used by the attached block of data.

- Specify the length of that block of data so that data could be bypassed as described previously.

- Indicate whether a descriptor—an extension of the header—follows the header.

- Permit users to intercept data streams randomly and identify services quickly.

The descriptor's chief function is to add information to improve the usefulness of the data to the user. It also provides a means of self identification and error protection [Fig. 3].

Baron gave us an example of how the header/descriptor might be used with

the proposed digital HDTV transmission systems for a U.S. terrestrial standard. A header identification number could be assigned to the video data blocks, another could describe the type of audio (monophonic, stereo), and a third the program or program source identification (or the program identifier could contain the bits necessary to identify the audio service).

Using this scheme, Baron told us, the entire basic service could be defined in a data service requiring as little as less than 20 bytes of data per video frame, or 4800 kb/s. But by providing for extensions, the system could be expanded to accommodate the service needs of the local community.

SPECIAL REPORT / CONSUMER ELECTRONICS

Putting the standards to work

Personal computers, compact-disc players, and multimedia systems are some of the products using standard video formats

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any of the proposed video format standards are not yet official. All the same, products under development are being based on them—as well as on the formats that have been officially approved.

Among the many users of the JPEG standard is NeXT Computer Inc., Redwood City, Calif. NeXTstep, the standard operating environment on NeXT computers, includes support for the JPEG draft in its 2.0 version. All applications that use the NXImage class

can read JPEG-compressed tag image file format (TIFF) files. The decompression and imaging of a 24-bit 640-by-480-pixel image takes less than 10 seconds on a NeXT computer equipped with a Motorola 68040 processor.

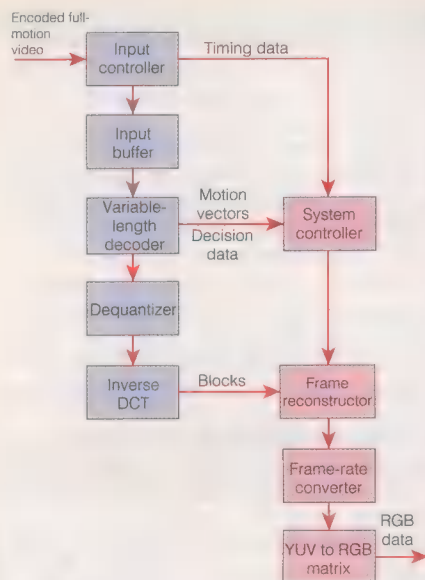
The i750 video processor, used in the DVI multimedia system from Intel Corp., Princeton, N.J., can process images encoded with

the JPEG draft standard. It can decode a 640-by-480 JPEG-encoded image in less than one second. Intel is now developing a chip that will handle MPEG decoding for introduction later this year.

CD-I TO GO MPEG. A good example of the trend to full-motion video in multimedia products is the Philips Imagination Machine, a CD-I home entertainment system that

Some network protocols and their bit-rate regimes

Service	Bit-rate regime
Conventional telephone	0.3–56 kb/s
Fundamental bandwidth unit of telephone company (DS-0)	56 kb/s
Integrated-services digital network (ISDN)	64–144 kb/s
Personal computer local-area network	30 kb/s
T-1 (multiple of DS-0)	1.5 Mb/s
Ethernet (packet-based local-area network)	10 Mb/s
T-3 (multiple of DS-0)	45 Mb/s
Fiber-optic ring-based network	100–200 Mb/s



[4] Philips Research Laboratories designed this Compact Disc Interactive (CD-I) decoder for full-motion video. Once the video is decoded from luminance and chrominance (YUV) data and converted to red-green-blue (RGB) data, it can be shown as a partial-screen display together with other video partial-screen displays.

combines CD-quality audio with video, text, graphics, animation, and interactive capabilities. The product debuted in New York City on Oct. 16. The CD player is connected to any TV receiver and stereo system. A standard 5-inch CD-I disc is loaded in the same way as a CD-Audio disc and is controlled by a remote control thumbstick.

Users direct the action on the TV screen, activating selected areas by pointing to and clicking on command areas on the screen (noted with symbols or words). The user may also interrupt a program while it is running, whether to recall a certain choice, go back to a previous step, ask for more detailed information, or request information in another language.

The Magnavox CDI910 player was developed to a worldwide CD-I standard to ensure compatibility with all CD-I discs developed, regardless of make, manufacturer, or country of origin. The player will also play 3-inch and 5-inch CD-Digital Audio discs, CD+Graphics discs and visuals, CD ROM-XA "bridge" discs, and Photo CD discs.

The current player has still picture and animated video capabilities but not full-motion video. But a MPEG-based full-motion video module will be available from Philips later this year and will plug into a socket already in place on the back of the CD-I player chassis.

An input controller in the decoder [Fig. 4] receives the encoded full-motion video bit stream and stores it in a buffer. The controller also extracts timing data—used to synchronize video with other functions, such

as audio, and to ensure that real-time demands from the bit stream are obeyed—and sends that data to the system controller. The output from the buffer is processed by a variable-length decoder, which recovers motion vectors, decision data, and quantized blocks from the encoded bit stream and passes them to the system controller. The quantized blocks are also dequantized and transformed by an inverse discrete cosine transform.

The 8-by-8 luminance or chrominance blocks that are the transform's output go to a frame reconstructor, which processes them, together with the motion vectors and decision data, to reproduce the frames. Reconstructed frames are available with a frame rate of 24, 25, or 30 Hz. The rate depends on the frequency of the coded video after subsampling. The YUV representation of the frames—the specific representation of luminance and chrominance used in the encoder and decoder—is transformed to an RGB representation, which can then be displayed on a portion of the screen.

Last April Philips Consumer Electronics Co., Knoxville, Tenn., and Motorola Inc., Schaumburg, Ill., announced plans to cooperate in developing chips for CD-I and MPEG. Philips subsequently announced its cooperation with C-Cube Microsystems Inc. to develop real-time compression chips.

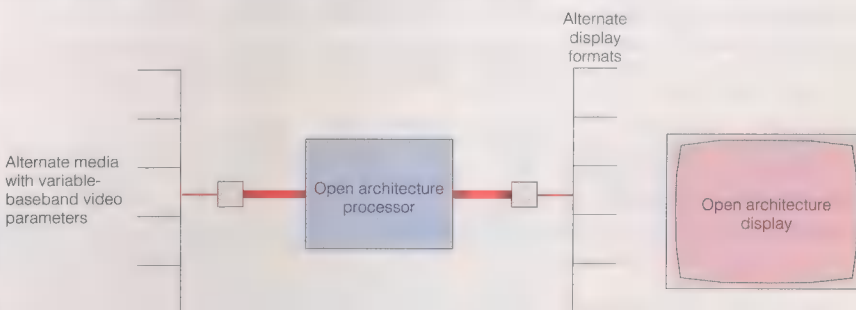
With full-motion video capability, a CD-I disc could conceivably be used for full-length movies that would be displayed on the full screen. In that event, the CD-I discs would compete with laser discs.

PHOTO CD SYSTEM. Philips has also worked with Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, N.Y., on new features for the Kodak Photo CD system announced in September 1990. The

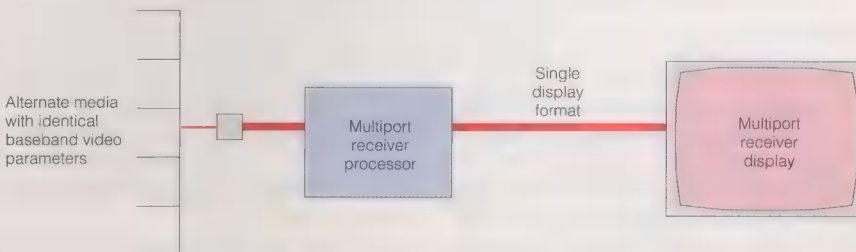
idea behind the system is to enable consumers to have their 35-mm negatives or slides inexpensively scanned and digitized by photofinishers for storage on Photo CD discs. These discs, which hold up to 100 images of photographic quality, may be loaded on a personal computer with a CD-ROM drive. With Photo CD software, available in the Photo CD Access developer toolkit, the stored images may be modified, manipulated, and exported for use in such applications as word processing, desktop publishing, and painting and drawing packages.

Announced by Kodak and Philips at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nev., in January was the news that sound, text, and graphics can now be recorded with the photographic images onto the Photo CD discs. The discs with interactive playback capabilities will be playable on TV receivers with dedicated Photo CD players (to be available this summer), on CD-I players, and on computers with CD-ROM XA (extended architecture) drives. Prerecorded discs carry up to 800 images, digitally recorded at TV resolution, or up to 72 minutes of full CD audio sound, or any combination thereof. Disc users will control their viewing of the contents through a simple infrared remote control device. The player also plays standard CD audio discs. A Huffman encoding process was used to obtain lossless compression after quantization of the high-frequency residual images.

MPEG FOR HDTV, TOO. At least one of the proposed U.S. digital HDTV terrestrial transmission formats ["The challenges of digital HDTV," *IEEE Spectrum*, April 1991, pp. 28-30, 71-73] uses a video compression technique based on MPEG. The Advanced Digital Television (ADTV) entry from the

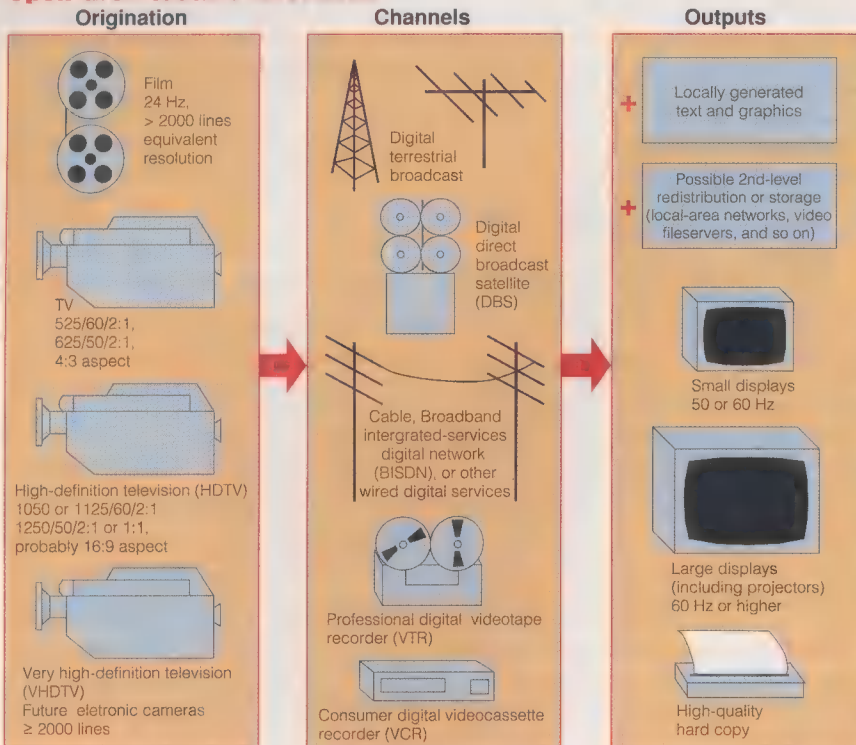


[5] An open-architecture receiver can handle media employing variable-baseband video parameters and produce displays in a variety of formats.



[6] A multiport receiver handles media with like-baseband video parameters and uses a single display format.

Open-architecture television



[7] An open-architecture TV receiver decouples the numerical parameters of origination, channel, and output of video images.

Advanced Television Research Consortium—NBC, David Sarnoff Research Center, Philips Consumer Electronics, Thomson Consumer Electronics, and Compression Labs Inc.—incorporates MPEG++ that upgrades the MPEG compression approach to HDTV pictures at 20 Mb/s.

OPEN OR MULTIPORT RECEIVERS? Even given a standard header/descriptor to identify an incoming bit stream of coded video data, the receiving device will not be able to display the video unless it can decode that particular bit stream. With the proliferation of video formats, this presents a problem. Whereas it might be relatively easy to design TV receivers that could decode NTSC, PAL, and Secam signals (if costs were no problem), it would be very much more difficult to design a receiver that could decode every video format.

By and large, “all-purpose” receivers could have either an open architecture [Fig. 5] or a multiport design [Fig. 6]. Arpad G. Toth, then chief scientist, Philips Laboratories, Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., and now with Eastman Kodak Co., described both at the first Digital Systems Information Exchange meeting in November 1990.

The open-architecture receiver, he said, would support multiformat emission and display parameters. But, he cautioned, although its ability to process and monitor digital multiresolution video could be a potential asset for the workstation and personal computer, it would present a problem for TV receiving systems. They may require simpler and minimum-cost design rules—hence

the generation of the multiport receiver concept.

A multiport receiver could be viewed as a special case of an open-architecture receiver, Toth said. “The input and output interfaces of the receiver would allow maximum user flexibility for interconnection without any signal degradation,” he explained.

Development of architecture and interface standards for the multiport receiver in both analog and digital video applications, he reported, was well under way within the Electronic Industries Association, Washington, D.C.

The significance of open architecture and scalability was discussed by V. Michael Bove Jr. and Andrew B. Lippman of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Media Laboratory, Cambridge, in the January 1992 issue of the *SMPTE Journal*. They said that open architecture hinged on an intermediate representation for video signals, one that “does not have a fixed sampling raster or frame rate, and which can exist at a range of bandwidths.”

They described work at the MIT Media Laboratory on applying the open-architecture concept to the entire television system [Fig. 7]. The goals are to maximize the interconnection options and to permit production, distribution, storage, and viewing to employ a variety of standards optimized for specific situations.

An open-architecture video representation is scalable in resolution, they emphasized. In other words, the number of lines on the display is determined strictly by the receiver

hardware and is not coupled to the number of lines used by the production equipment. Scalability means that it should not be necessary to decode the entire transmitted signal to obtain an image at lower resolution than the source. The signal is also scalable temporally, they reported, so that the frame rate of production and display are decoupled.

TO PROBE FURTHER. The April 1991 issue of the *Communications of the ACM* is a special issue on digital multimedia systems. It was published by the Association for Computing Machinery, 11 W. 42 St., New York, N.Y. 10036; 212-869-7440. This article draws on some of the material published in that issue.

Descriptions of the JPEG and H.261 coding algorithms are contained in the article, “Video compression makes big gains,” by Peng H. Ang, Peter A. Ruetz, and David Auld, in the October 1991 issue of *IEEE Spectrum*, pp. 16–19.

For detailed information on Intel Corp.’s Digital Video Interactive (DVI) technology, see *Digital Video in the PC Environment*, second edition, by Arch C. Luther (McGraw-Hill, New York, 1991) and “Multimedia Applications Development Using DVI Technology,” by Mark J. Bunzel and Sandra K. Morris (McGraw-Hill, New York, 1992).

An interim report of the FCC Advisory Committee on Advanced Television Systems recommends that the headers/descriptors notion be adopted by the FCC. For a copy, contact Robert Sanderson, Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, N.Y.; 716-253-5362.

For an update on multiport receiver developments, contact the Electronic Industries Association, 2001 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006-1813.

The February 1992 issue of the *IEEE Transactions on Consumer Electronics* contains three papers from the Digital Video Workshop held in October. Contact IEEE Publication Sales, 445 Hoes Lane, Box 1331, Piscataway, N.J. 08855-1131; 908-981-0060.

The Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE) welcomes the participation of any individual or group that has an interest in the header/descriptor standards work. Contact Sherwin H. Becker, director of engineering, SMPTE, 595 West Hartsdale Ave., White Plains, N.Y. 10607; 914-761-1100.

The January 1992 issue of the *SMPTE Journal*, pp. 2–5, contains an article “Scalable Open-Architecture Television,” by V. Michael Bove Jr. and Andrew B. Lippman.

The proceedings of SMPTE’s 26th Annual Advanced Television and Electronic Imaging Conference, held in San Francisco, Feb. 7–8, is available from the society. That meeting addressed the serious need for technological compatibility between television and computers.

The Interactive Multimedia Association’s “Recommended Practices for Multimedia Portability,” Release R 1.1, is available from the organization, 800 K St., N.W., Suite 440, Washington, D.C. 20001; 202-408-1000. ♦

Refreshing curricula

To cut down on dropouts, U.S. engineering schools are devising lively courses that emphasize hands-on design and teamwork

Graduates of U.S. high schools who go on to college are choosing engineering schools in dwindling numbers. Last year, for example, there were 19 percent fewer engineering bachelor's degrees awarded than in the peak year of 1986, according to the American Association of Engineering Societies, Washington, D.C.

Worse, many of those who do enroll in engineering drop out after a year or two, disappointed and bored with courses that seem to have little relevance to the workplace or to society. Women, blacks, Hispanics, and American Indians—already underrepresented in the student body—leave engineering schools in disproportionately large numbers. For example, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., which prides itself on the relatively large number of women entering its engineering program (more than 30 percent this year), has nevertheless found that an average of 39 percent of women drop out of engineering compared to 27 percent of white men.

At the same time, employers of recent engineering graduates complain that many new engineers are poorly prepared for the realities of the twenty-first century. Graduates may be well-trained in engineering analysis, employers say, but they lack skills in interdisciplinary problem-solving, concurrent engineering, teamwork, and communication—all vital for today's intensely competitive industries.

Not surprisingly, these problems have prompted movements aimed at reforming engineering school curricula. One of the most

George F. Watson Senior Editor

prominent is the Synthesis Coalition, a five-year, US \$15.3 million project begun in Sept. 1990 by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Washington, D.C., and eight member institutions. Participating are California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; Cornell; Hampton University, Virginia; Iowa State University, Ames; Stanford University, California; Southern University, Baton Rouge, La.; Tuskegee University, Alabama; and the University of California, Berkeley.

"The term *synthesis* means integration of engineering knowledge, including design, in union with broad societal concerns," Robert J. Thomas told *IEEE Spectrum*. Thomas is a professor of electrical engineering at Cornell and chairs the technical communications subcommittee of the Synthesis Coalition. "The integration is both horizontal—that is, interdisciplinary—and vertical—uniting precollege through post-

grad education," he commented.

Industry plays a big role in the Synthesis Coalition, too. Some 20 companies in such fields as publishing, computers, and telecommunications advise Thomas's subcommittee on software and hardware standards for classrooms, courseware development studios, and databases. In addition, companies provide equipment, technical support, and funding for many coalition projects.

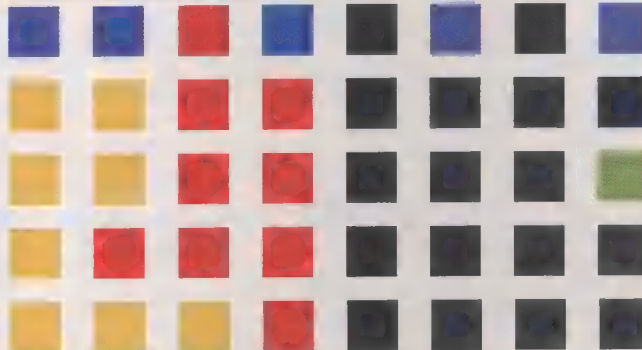
The Synthesis Coalition is not the only reform movement, to be sure. Many engineering colleges across the United States have instituted their own curriculum innovation programs. For example, the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, recently proposed a radically new undergraduate curriculum in which freshmen learn circuit and logic concepts and build a working robot. And the NSF is funding a parallel effort, the seven-university

Engineering Coalition of Schools for Excellence in Education and Leadership (Ecsel), a group that stresses the teaching of leadership and management skills. Seniors from a variety of engineering disciplines will work together on design project teams.

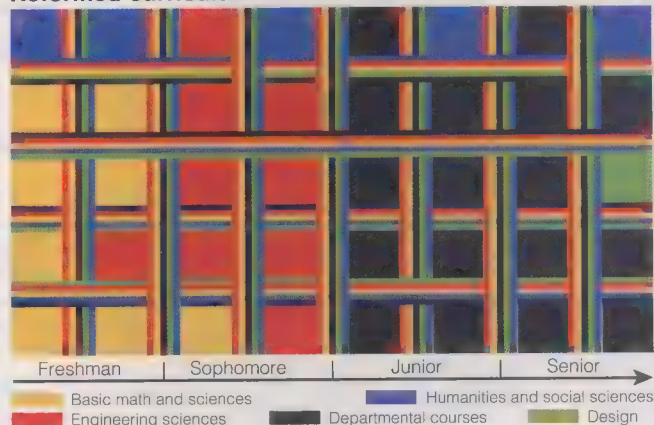
Interestingly, little curriculum reform seems to be going on outside North America, according to several U.S. engineering educators. For example, Wolfgang Sachse, a professor of theoretical and applied mechanics at Cornell, recently visited universities in France and Germany and found that course development there proceeded along traditional lines, though European engineering educators followed U.S. innovation efforts with much interest.

INTERWEAVING. Synthesis Coalition members view the traditional undergraduate curriculum as a rigid sequence of courses that are narrowly focused and compartmentalized. Early courses, they say, tend to be abstract and seem unrelated to the practice of engineering; students are asked to accept on faith that they are truly important to their careers. And design courses are not introduced until late in the program, at which time they may come as a shock to many students.

Traditional curriculum:



Reformed curriculum:



Many educators regard the traditional undergraduate engineering curriculum as fragmented. The Synthesis Coalition plans to change that by interweaving minicourses in the basics, in engineering, in the humanities, and in design throughout a student's academic years.

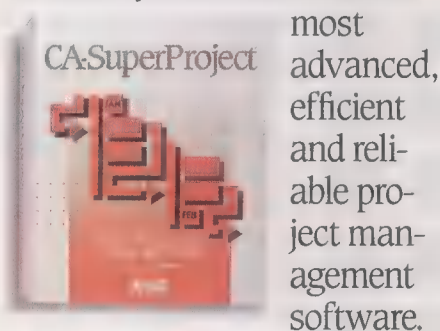
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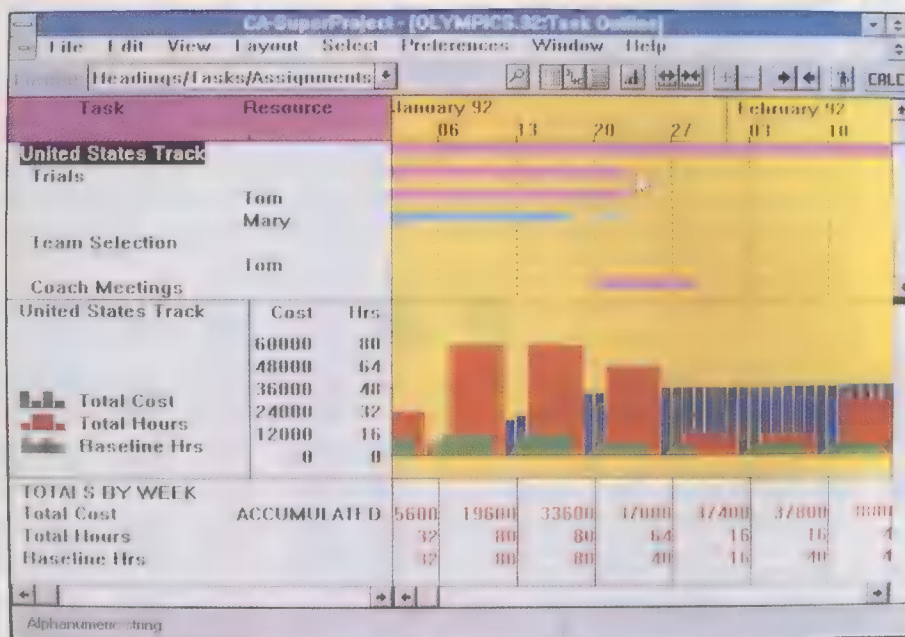


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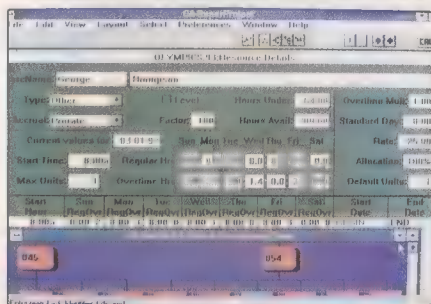
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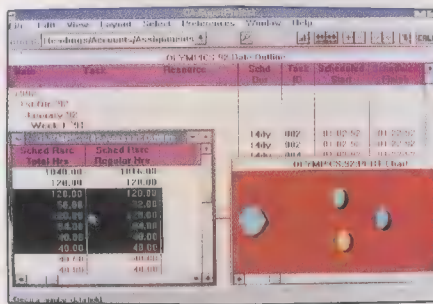
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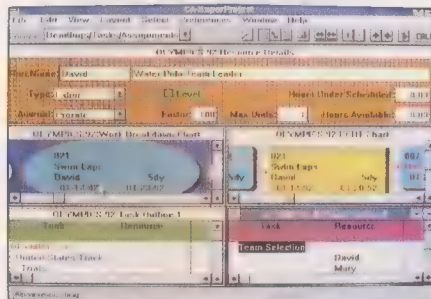
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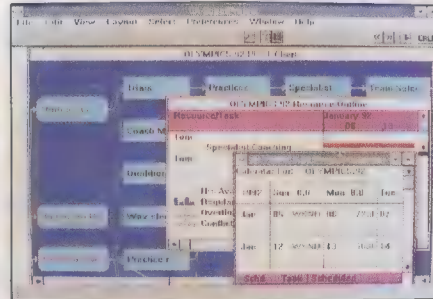
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Circle No. 11

Attempting to change that conventional order, the coalition is introducing design projects at the outset and weaving math, basic science, engineering science, multidisciplinary, and humanities courses throughout the four-year program [see figure].

In all, the coalition has some 70 projects in various stages of preparation. Several of them are aimed at attracting a steady supply of qualified degree candidates—filling the pipeline, in coalition parlance—by reaching out to precollege students. Other modules are aimed at teaching teachers—preparing them for reformed curricula and high-tech classrooms.

Still others cover traditional engineering subjects that are transformed according to Synthesis Coalition tenets. For example, Logic Synthesis teaches logic system design and rapid prototyping principles and techniques. Electric Power Systems Synthesis teaches difficult concepts in analysis and design of power networks with the aid of visualization and simulation software and hardware.

MULTIMEDIA CASE STUDIES. To promote horizontal integration, the coalition is developing a variety of course modules. An example is Multidisciplinary Multimedia Case Studies in Engineering Design, which combines the case study method with computers and hypermedia. Instead of poring over hard copies of figures, specifications, graphs, and reports, students will navigate at their own speed, using video displays, through databases to learn how products were conceived, what design decisions were made and why, what the stages of design and development were, and how the products were designed for easy assembly and manufacture. The students are also able to examine issues of reliability,

maintenance, social implications, and marketing. The course will be offered from freshman to senior years.

"Instructors benefit, too," said Alice Agogino, an associate professor of mechanical engineering at Berkeley and associate director of curricular reform for the coalition. "Each can refer to one aspect of a case study to illustrate a particular engineering principle." Among the products to be studied are ■ Apple personal computer, a Digital Equipment mouse, an IBM printer, General Electric consumer products, and a

Women, blacks, Hispanics,
and American Indians,
already underrepresented,
leave U.S. engineering
schools in excessive numbers

Sony compact-disc player. The manufacturers are supplying the information for the database.

So far, ■ case study of a human-powered vehicle has been completed and one on the IBM Proprinter is expected to be ready in May, Agogino, who is lead investigator for the module, told *Spectrum*. By next January, results of the module's use in classes at Berkeley, Cornell, Hampton, Iowa State, Stanford, and Tuskegee will be reviewed. Eventually the courseware will be made available to schools that do not belong to the coalition.

Meanwhile, Agogino is supporting verti-

cal integration by developing versions of the case study course for precollege outreach programs for women and minorities. In this guise, it is expected to stimulate interest in engineering as ■ career and prepare prospective students by acquainting them with engineering concepts and methods.

Another interdisciplinary course is Mechatronics, for which David Auslander, another associate professor of mechanical engineering at Berkeley, is lead investigator. In it, students learn how to integrate mechanical equipment and embedded microprocessors by writing control software, designing mechanical hardware, and evaluating their creations.

Southern University just implemented the course this winter semester, and Cal Poly plans to do so when its spring semester begins this month. Tuskegee and Hampton plan to follow suit. "We don't have any measured results yet, but the kids seem to like it a lot," Auslander told us.

A course aimed at stemming the loss of first-year students is Freshman Engineering, whose development is being

led by Robert Heidersbach, head of the materials engineering department at Cal Poly. Although the course is likely to take many forms, depending on local needs, it is essentially ■ series of minicourses in which faculty make presentations, with visuals and demonstrations, on topics of current interest.

Students get practice in writing and speaking, gain hands-on experience with workstations, read and discuss topics like design techniques and engineering ethics, and learn basic survival skills such as how to function in a bureaucracy and how to deal effectively with faculty members.

"The majority of engineering students who leave engineering do it during or just after the freshman year," Heidersbach observed. "This course could stem this leak in the pipeline."

The course was first offered last fall at Cal Poly and Southern. Charles Burris of Southern's mechanical engineering department has injected design into his version of the course. He believes that, with professional coaching, beginners can learn design methodologies even though they may lack background in engineering fundamentals. "Freshmen are assigned a simple but practical design project—one is a paint-can holding fixture—and required to come up with drawings and ■ report," Burris said. The professor compares the progress of students in the pilot section with that of students in traditional sections.

Yet another effort to stem leaks is Spatial Reasoning, for which Berkeley's Agogino is co-lead investigator with Marcia Linn, director of the Instructional Technology Program in Berkeley's department of education. The module, involving both research and course development, is based on the hypothesis that spatial reasoning—the ability to visual-

Engineering super Nova

Anthony R. Ingraffea

Education is impossible without manipulating information. Creating, transmitting, storing, cataloging, retrieving, displaying, and interacting with information—all this is the business of education. Insight, imagination, creativity, and passion are its soul. It always surprises me, then, that I often have to explain and justify a massive infusion of new information technology to engineering professors.

Such new technology is now being developed through the Synthesis Coalition, a five-year project by the National Science Foundation and eight member universities aimed at reforming engineering school curricula. We in the coalition are not telling engineering educators that chalk and blackboards must be destroyed; these tools will continue to be part of teaching for the foreseeable future.

Rather, we are saying, "Stop thinking of computers as only computers!" They are systems that can handle all of the business of education as well as enhance its soul.

In a classroom or lab, computers can slow down things that are too fast to see (like wave propaga-

tion) or speed up things whose motion is too slow to be discernible (like plate tectonics). And they can enlarge things that are so small as to be almost invisible (like integrated circuit junctions). Even the most dedicated professor could never do this with blackboard and chalk.

I was criticized recently for "just trying to make 'Nova' PBS [Public Broadcasting System] segments out of engineering education." Actually, to many students that would be a great idea, but we are going a few steps further than "Nova." A "Nova" program is serial, noninteractive, and not conducive to close faculty-student and student-student interaction. Moreover, it is generally too big a bite of information to please any professor completely.

What we have in mind is similar in technology—graphics, sound, video, the sense of being there—but with solid pedagogy appropriate to the classroom and laboratory, not the family room, so we don't restrict free expression of the soul.

Anthony R. Ingraffea is director of the Synthesis Coalition and a professor of civil engineering at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

ize three-dimensional relationships—can be improved by interactive courseware to build intuition and successful reasoning strategies. **3-D VIEWS.** “Spatial reasoning tasks are part of both engineering courses and engineering practice,” Agogino said. “But students who feel inadequate in spatial reasoning may be discouraged from continuing their training or starting it in the first place.”

Agogino and Linn are testing tutorial spatial reasoning courseware at Berkeley, Iowa State, and Hampton. In a typical learning session, a student is shown a 3-D view of an object on a workstation and is then asked to construct top, side, and front views by rotating the isometric views. “If we identify learning style differences by gender, ethnicity, or race, we will modify the tutorials for these populations,” Agogino said.

Adebisi O. Oladipupo, assistant professor of electrical engineering at Hampton, described how the courseware is used there. In their first weeks, freshmen sketch 3-D objects on paper, then construct folded cardboard models of the objects. After moving on to drawing isometric views from orthographic views, they finally use a workstation and SilverScreen graphics software to construct and manipulate images of objects.

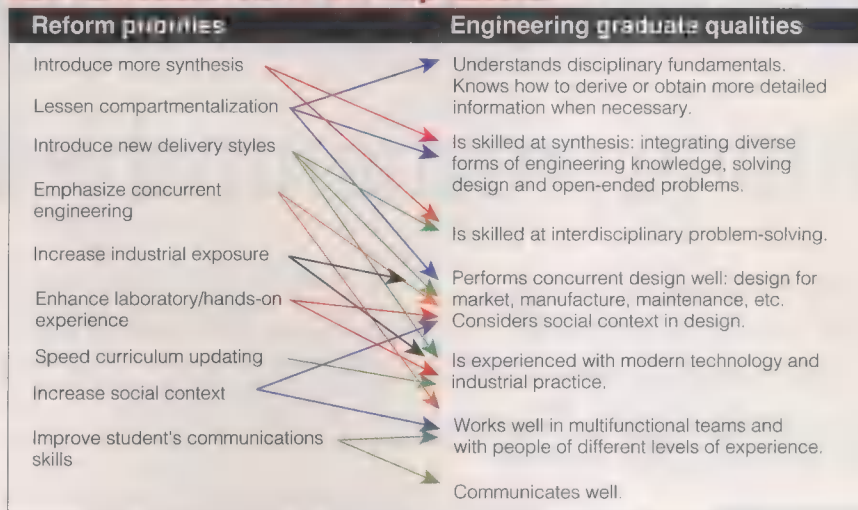
“We’re not teaching drafting principles, but how to visualize in the mind’s eye,” Oladipupo said. “The manual methods—sketching and cutting and folding—are hard but rewarding for students. Then, when they go to software, they find it’s easy—and fun!” The spatial reasoning courseware will be released to other schools in the coalition next summer.

Implicit in all this ambitious course development is a high-technology delivery medium, and the Synthesis Coalition is addressing this need through its National Educational Delivery System (Needs) program. Two innovative classrooms went into service on Jan. 20 at Iowa State, according to Arvid R. Eide, associate dean for instruction and student affairs at Iowa State’s College of Engineering and the coalition’s associate director for supporting technologies.

In those classrooms, instructors have at their fingertips video disc players, videocassette recorders, slide projectors, personal computers, and high-performance graphics workstations with high-resolution color back-projection displays. The instructor can call up courseware elements to illustrate concepts as a planned part of a lecture or to answer spur-of-the-moment questions. Programs can be delivered by satellite downlink, and eventually the classrooms will have satellite uplinks and optical-fiber connections as well.

“We’re working, for example, with IBM and Intel on DVI [digital video-interactive] technology, and we’re using laser disks, CD ROMs [compact disc-read-only memories], and a lot of multimedia techniques,” Eide said. By 1994, all coalition schools—and perhaps a few outside the coalition—will have high-tech classrooms.

How curriculum reform will help students



For its part, Iowa State hopes to construct a new \$50 million building containing 15 high-tech classrooms. There, interdisciplinary design and development work will be encouraged. Students will be able to communicate via computer and to examine collective projects and make changes in them, as in concurrent engineering.

PORTABLE DISPLAYS. The Synthesis Coalition is well aware of the need to keep hardware costs low so that schools can take advantage of curriculum reform in an era of shrinking budgets. Toward this end, the coalition hopes to design a relatively low-cost portable unit, including a computer and projection system. “There are some nice liquid-crystal displays now that will project full-motion video,” Eide told us. “I would say that for about \$20 000, we could build a unit that a faculty member could roll into a classroom whenever it’s needed.”

Classrooms are only part of the Needs program. Eide and co-workers at Synthesis Coalition schools are building a technology database that will be accessible nationwide via high-speed computer networks. Instructors and students will be able to tap the database for courseware, full-motion videos, computer simulations, and mathematical models. Eventually the database will be available to kindergarten through 12th-grade science teachers and community college instructors. (The Synthesis Coalition has already begun to work with community colleges, which are a fertile source of engineering students. It sponsors four-day meetings that bring together community college instructors, counselors, and administrators; representatives of government funding agencies; and educators from engineering schools.)

ASSEMBLING LESSONS. Iowa State’s Eide envisions a Needs courseware matrix that relates concepts (mathematics, mechanics, thermoscience), disciplines (aerospace, civil, electrical), and categories (analysis, design, experimentation). The matrix elements will be jointly developed educational

segments, 2 to 10 minutes long, stored in a national database. An instructor will assemble a lesson by mixing and matching these segments and supplementing them with locally developed segments dealing with motivation, historical background, or special-purpose experiments and computations.

Each school will have its own courseware development studio where instructors can get help in creating their own courseware segments and integrate multimedia presentations. With only a little technical training, they will be able to combine graphics, sound, video, text, calculations, and simulations.

Convincing teachers of the advantages of the high-tech classroom is a vital part of the Synthesis Coalition’s work. “We plan to methodically show faculty how easily they can modify a class or a series of lectures,” Eide said. He does not expect total acceptance. “I think there will be those faculty members who think the money would be better spent in their individual research areas. And there will be faculty who will continue to use the blackboard and chalk.”

Nevertheless, he predicts eventual conversion. “As a portion of the faculty becomes sold on new teaching methods, their enthusiasm will spread,” he said. “Slowly but surely, curriculum reform and the high-tech classroom will take root.”

TO PROBE FURTHER. *ASEE Prism*, a monthly magazine, frequently publishes articles on innovative curricula. Contact the American Society for Engineering Education, 11 Dupont Circle, Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20036; 202-293-7080. The society’s 1992 conference will be held June 21–25 in Toledo, Ohio. This year’s theme: “Creativity—Educating World-Class Engineers.”

The Synthesis Coalition, 445 Engineering and Theory Center, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14853, publishes a newsletter, *Synergy*, and a Project Information Guide that provides background on the coalition and summarizes its 1991–92 activities; 607-255-3697; fax, 607-254-8888; e-mail, TAVX@cornell.cit.cornell.edu. ♦

Fitting programmable logic

New synthesis software for user-programmable logic relieves designers of complex design fitting, placement, and routing

The latest wave of field-programmable gate arrays (FPGAs) and complex programmable logic devices (PLDs) brings system designers two boons: capabilities till now unique to gate array devices and design benefits till now found only in the programmable-array logic (PAL) type of device. But the architectures of the latest devices are many and varied. Each type of user-programmable device has unique traits, some obvious, some obscure. To benefit fully from the new devices, ■ system designer needs ■ synthesis software tool that addresses all their idiosyncrasies.

The tool is a program called a device fitter. It manipulates ■ designer's generic logic description until the best possible fit with a particular PLD or FPGA is obtained. As the key to the efficient, optimal utilization of modern programmable logic devices, it is fast becoming ■ standard item in the designer's electronic design automation (EDA) toolbox.

Device fitting follows functional simulation and generic optimization [Fig. 1]. Thus the fitter's input might be a set of sum-of-products equations generated by ■ design-entry tool, such as schematic-capture or behavioral description software.

The device fitter is far more sophisticated than past gate array or PLD synthesis tools. In most cases, the process is fully automated: the design is entered, the fitter is invoked, and ■ Jedec-standard-No.3 file or vendor-specific netlist is produced. A fitter thus frees engineers from worry about details, letting them concentrate instead on the architectural consequences and tradeoffs of a design.

Fitters also take on the exhaustive search for the best solutions, which is crucial when the possibilities are as vast as they are here.

The first PLDs appeared in the late 1970s and were based on a simple sum-of-products

architecture. They were mainly used to replace the many discrete transistor-transistor logic (TTL) devices needed to make standard large- and/or very large-scale ICs work together, the so-called glue logic. These early PLDs were easy to design with, so systems engineers would often do the fitting manually. Design software of the day supported basic fitting functions; it included Palasm from Monolithic Memories Inc. (now merged with AMD Inc., Santa Clara, Calif.) and early versions of ABEL from Data I/O Corp., Redmond, Wash.

The new programmable logic is quite different. Recent PLDs and FPGAs have three or more logic levels, whereas the original devices only had two. New devices may consist of two or more programmable arrays versus the single-array PLDs of yore. Complex PLDs and FPGAs generally have programmable routing, simple devices do not.

FPGAs. The new devices split broadly into two groups: FPGAs and complex PLDs with multiple partitions.

A basic FPGA design issue is that each device has a different level of granularity—that is, the size of their fundamental electronic structures varies. Some chips have large logic structures; the Logic Cell Array (LCA)

large fan-in requirements), complex logic blocks can be wasted on simple gate functions. For large combinational circuits, devices such as Actel's with flexible, fine-grain logic blocks give higher device utilization. Although circuits implemented in an Actel FPGA can be faster than the same circuit implemented in an LCA, the timing characteristics of both are routing-dependent.

Unlike the LCA and the Actel FPGA, the Hiper 2020's timing characteristics are not affected by the routing process, and architecturally it has characteristics of both an FPGA and ■ PLD. A universal interconnect matrix (UIM) interconnects the eight functional blocks in this multilevel-architecture device from Plus Logic (which was recently acquired by Xilinx). Each functional block is ■ fully programmable AND array that generates 57 intermediate product terms. There are 21 inputs from the UIM as well as nine output cells for each functional block, and each cell has a logic expander, which is similar to a PLD's product-term-steering block.

PLDs. The newer PLDs have multiple-partitioned architectures, with each partition in effect equalling earlier PLDs in complexity, and may be using hard-wired buses or fuses for interconnection.

A good example of this architectural type is the MACH210, a member of one of the most popular families—AMD's MACH (Macro Array CMOS High-density) electrically erasable PLDs. It consists of four programmable-array logic (PAL) blocks interconnected by ■ programmable switch matrix [Fig. 3]. Each PAL block includes ■ 64-term sum-of-products array, plus I/O macrocells and buried registers. The switch matrix feeds each PAL block with 22 inputs. The PAL blocks, in turn, provide the switch matrix with 16 internal and eight I/O feedback signals, for distribution to the PAL blocks.

Along with partitioning come product-term-steering architectures, special ways of assigning product terms to a block. By steering additional product-term inputs to the appropriate macrocell, designers can implement equations with many OR terms as two-level logic. Among the widely used techniques are allocation, joining, and expander logic.

In allocation, the number of product-term inputs to a macrocell is increased by taking logic from a neighboring macrocell. An example of the allocation architecture is the

The logic-fitting process is usually automated: the design is entered, the fitter invoked, and the netlist produced

from Xilinx Inc., San Jose, Calif., consists of input/output blocks (IOBs) surrounding configurable-logic blocks (CLBs), with each CLB including registers as well as combinational logic [Fig. 2]. Others resemble conventional gate arrays in their granularity; the ACT 1 FPGA from Actel Corp., Sunnyvale, Calif., comprises ■ matrix of logic modules, with the rows separated by wiring channels.

The large-grain registers of the LCA let the designer compactly implement register-intensive designs that would require large amounts of fine-grain random logic. On the other hand, when large combinational circuits are required (particularly if they have

Thomas R. Clark Data I/O Corp.

5AC312 from Intel Corp., Santa Clara, Calif., whose 12 macrocells each have two groups of four product terms. Each macrocell can surrender one group to each adjacent macrocell; alternatively, it can take a group from each adjacent macrocell. For instance, if macrocells A and C require 12 product terms apiece for their equations, they can each take a group from B. So doing would, of course, leave B without product terms and therefore unusable. In most cases, however, equations can be placed in a way that leaves each macrocell with at least four terms.

In joining, product-term inputs are increased by sharing inputs. In the 2500 from Atmel Corp., San Jose, Calif., for instance, each macrocell contains 12 product terms, evenly divided among the macrocell's combinational logic block and two buried registers. Product-term inputs to the combinational logic can be increased by being "joined" by the buried register product terms; all 12 inputs can be used combinatorially if required. Yet, while additional product terms are joined to the combinational-logic output, they remain available to the buried registers.

From the device designer's viewpoint, joining and allocation reduce the total number of product terms required per block and hence the number of actual gates. Since most circuits that will be implemented in a

Defining terms

Buried register: a register intended for use internally in a logic design.

Combinational (combinatorial, or combinative) logic: logic that provides a unique output state for each unique combination of input states.

Control term: a reset, output enable, or any other term that affects the general operation of a logic circuit.

Field-programmable gate array (FPGA): a device consisting essentially of arrays of logic gates that can have interconnections programmed between them so that they will perform a particular logic function.

Logic expander: a spare array of logic from which macrocells may obtain extra product-term inputs as needed.

Macrocell: a block of uncommitted logic circuits made up of small standard cells, such as flip-flops.

Partition: an area of distributed logic (whether a device or a resource within a device).

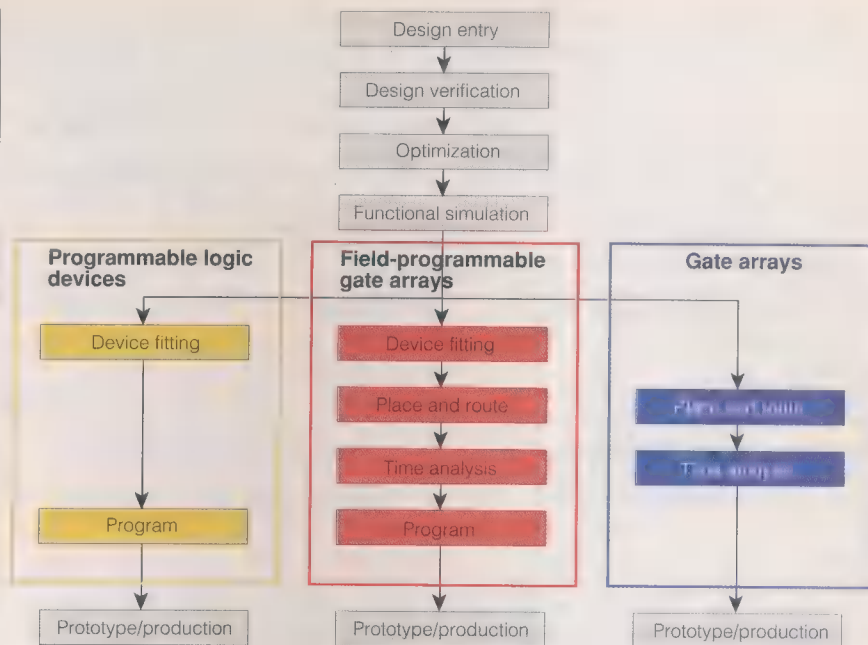
Partitioning: act of distributing the logic functions of a design among the target partitions (whether between multiple devices or between resources in a device).

Product term: the result of Boolean multiplication, such as the output of an AND circuit.

Product-term steering: the discretionary ability to assign product terms to a particular macrocell.

Programmable-logic device (PLD): a user-configurable device consisting of two or more logic arrays and possibly macrocells, too.

Sum of products: the addition of product terms obtained when, say, the output of an AND array is fed to an OR array.



[1] The logic design tasks for complex programmable-logic devices and field-programmable gate arrays (PLDs and FPGAs) are a mix of traditional PLD and application-specific ASIC tasks. After the logic description undergoes generic optimization and functional simulation, it is subjected to fitter software where it acquires first architecture-specific and then device-specific characteristics.

PLD require rather few product terms (four, say) for most outputs, the goal of the PLD designers has been to reduce the total number without restricting applications that require a lot more (16, say) for certain logic functions. Joining and allocation allow the number of product terms per output to be adjusted to a design's needs, and do so without affecting the timing characteristics of the final circuit.

A disadvantage of these approaches is that output signals must be allocated to device pins on the basis of their product-term requirements. This can make fitter software more complex and costly to develop; it must be careful not to group together outputs with large term requirements, since each output may borrow product terms only from an adjacent macrocell.

In the expander approach, seen in the MAX EPM5128 from Altera Corp., San Jose, Calif., a separate array provides a pool of expander terms from which the user can draw to add to the normally allocated output terms. This flexibility lets the designer place much larger logic functions (16 or more) on a given output than other term-sharing architectures. However, there is a small timing penalty, and possible output skew.

NEW FITTERS. As programmable-logic architectures continue to evolve and grow, those who produce EDA tools must confront mounting issues. The effort required to write a good fitter for an FPGA or large, complex PLD is at least an order of magnitude greater than the effort required for an older-style device; it may take six months to develop a fitter for today's devices versus a week for a traditional device. Also, fit-

ters at present must be written on an architecture-by-architecture (and sometimes even device-by-device) basis.

In the past, when PLD design software depended on a simple sum-of-products equation to fit logic into a device, it was easy to reduce Karnaugh maps and state tables automatically to equations and directly map them to the targeted device. Given the diversity of complex architectures today, that approach is no longer viable.

Now, industry emphasis is on device-specific optimization algorithms that demand ever more detail about each and every chip architecture, including structural idiosyncrasies. Armed with those details, the optimization algorithm fits a logic design to a programmable device by means of logic transformation, logic partitioning, and signal placement and routing.

The concept of fitting is not new; in fact, it has been implicit in some tools for many years. In the case of PLDs, for example, the behavioral synthesis tool ABEL from Data I/O traditionally performs four fitting functions, namely pin assignment, node assignment, macrocell configuration, and control-term configuration. But today, all these functions have become more complex.

Pin assignment denotes assigning output logic to the pin that can best accommodate it; similarly, node assignment involves selection of appropriate points, or nodes, internal to the device. Neither task, however, is just a matter of finding any pin or node that fits an equation's logic, because some choices may be better than others when the assignments still left to be done are taken into account.

Macrocell configuration refers to optimal use of all the programmable resources in a device's macrocell. The options include clock selection, choice of feedback, output polarity, and so forth. Control-term configuration likewise consists of choosing among options for output enable, register preset and reset, and so on. Larger, more complex PLDs require additional fitting.

Much is to be gained by automating all these fitting tasks. However, some fitters let the designer override automatic capabilities to enforce a design insight.

NEW DEMANDS. The fitting tasks thus far described are ones with which tools have long dealt. In the past few years, however, the new devices, made by companies like Atmel, Altera, Xilinx, Actel, and Plus Logic, have come to deviate from the older ones, mandating new and far more complex fitting capabilities. Most of the older devices had architectures that accepted sum-of-products logic directly; most of the newer devices do not. The older logic had a single programmable array where the newer have two or more. The older parts had no programmable routing; the newer do.

As a result, the demands on fitter software have ballooned. Newly required functionality includes:

- Two-level logic synthesis.
- Multi-level logic synthesis.
- Library and technology mapping.
- Design partitioning.
- Signal placement and routing.

Two-level logic synthesis embodies a variety of techniques for logic optimization, many of which are extensions of algorithms employed for simpler PLDs. Examples include register synthesis and phase assignment.

Register synthesis refers to the ability to implement logic described in terms of one

Writing a good fitter is
a substantial effort;
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register type in another. For example, designers often describe a counter in terms of D flip-flops, but it might map to some devices more efficiently if T (toggle) flip-flops are used. Xilinx LCAs, which are built around D flip-flops, can easily emulate registers designed around T flip-flops as well. In this instance, register synthesis would implement the logic in whichever type (or mix of types) was most efficient. Register synthesis tries various approaches, takes note of the register transformations resulting in the least logic, and selects the minimal logic in which a given register can be emulated. On the other hand, some PLDs

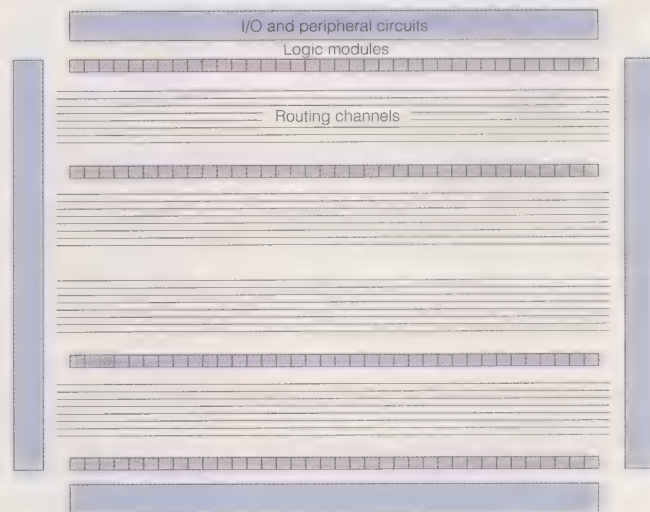
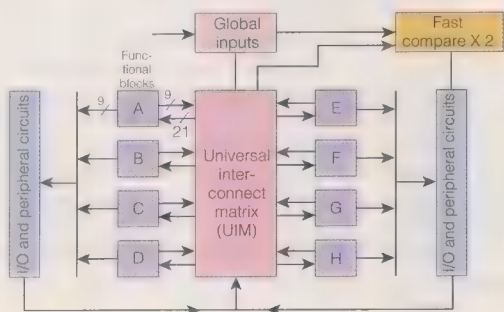
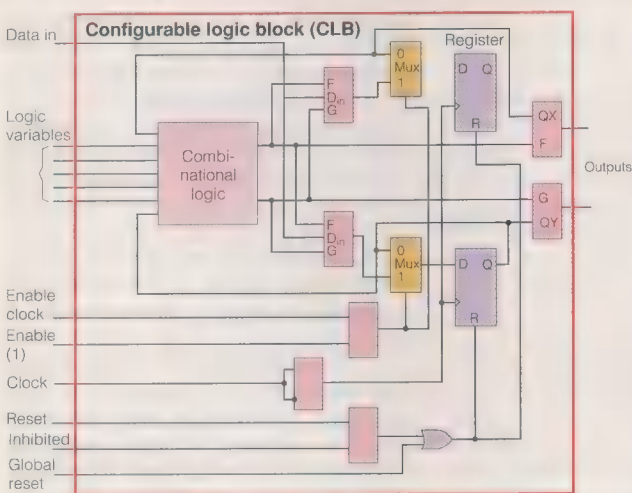
support both types and therefore do not require register synthesis.

Phase assignment refers to the ability to determine whether the true or complemented version of the Boolean equation describing the logic design requires less logic, and to implement accordingly with the appropriate polarity conversion added to account for transformation. The judgment as to which complemented form constitutes less logic varies with the architecture, depending on the demand it places on product-term requirements, for instance.

Multi-level synthesis is the process of sorting a two-level design into three or more levels of logic. Like two-level synthesis, its goal is to reduce the amount of device resources required to implement the logic function within delay constraints. However, the techniques involved are entirely different.

For multi-level synthesis, the primary technique is to mathematically determine the factors and subfactors in the design's Boolean equation; these determine the number of logic levels possible. Each factor or subfactor can be fanned out to multiple outputs or to other logic levels.

Often, increasing the number of logic levels reduces the required device resources but increases the delay in the logic path. Conversely, reducing levels of logic will speed up the design, but often will require additional device resources. The fitter must consider the target architecture, the design logic, and delay and utilization constraints



[2] Xilinx FPGA architecture comprises many configurable logic blocks (CLBs) and a periphery of I/O blocks. Each CLB (top left) has combinational logic and two registers. The Actel FPGA architecture (above) is based on rows of fine-grained logic modules separated by wiring channels. Plus Logic's FPGA, the Hiper 2020 (bottom left), has eight functional blocks (FBs) whose inputs and outputs are linked by a universal interconnect matrix (UIM).

imposed by the user. Multi-level synthesis is essential for efficient implementation in FPGAs, which as gate arrays are inherently multi-level at the silicon level.

TECHNOLOGY SPECIFIC. Mapping consists of processes that transform the relatively technology-independent output of the logic synthesis steps into an architecture-specific implementation. This may involve two steps: library mapping and technology mapping.

Library mapping re-expresses a generic logic description in terms of a specific library of components. For example, a truth-table description might be mapped to a netlist of AND and OR gates. Technology mapping takes the further step of transforming the netlist into the specific structures which exist within the target silicon; for example, a netlist might be mapped into a specific configurable logic block in a Xilinx Logic Cell Array. (Interestingly, this second mapping is an added burden for most FPGAs, one that is missing from gate array synthesis.)

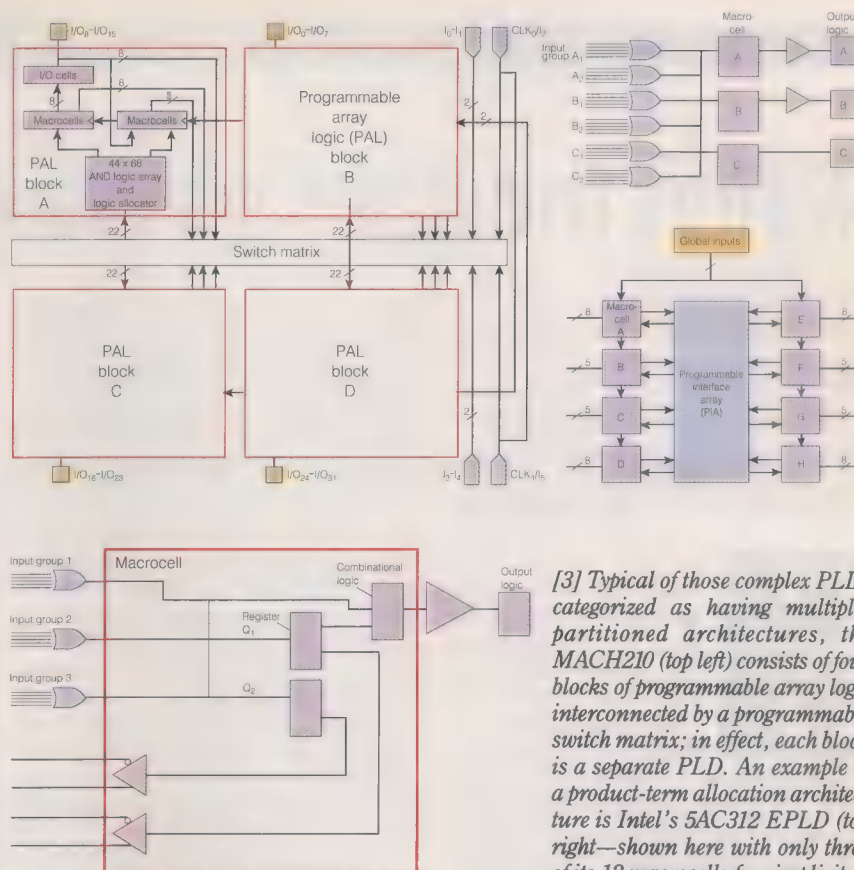
Design partitioning consists of having a fitter automatically divide a technology-mapped design among the multiple partitions inside a single device. This involves careful use, with an eye to the whole design, of resources like expander terms, global versus local feedback, and routing. It may be a difficult iterative task: assigning an equation to one partition may look acceptable until later, when another signal *does not* fit (maybe because of blocked routing resources)—which demands reassigning the earlier signal and trying again.

Block-based FPGAs require both multi-level synthesis and logic partitioning. Multi-level synthesis is essential to the fitting process for gate-array-like FPGAs; high-level logic partitioning is not. Conversely, partitioning is critical to fitting logic in complex PLDs and multiple-level synthesis is less so.

IN ITS PLACE. The final step, placement and routing, is truly a new challenge for fitters. In all older devices, if the logic "fit" (there were enough product terms, control terms, and so on), routability was guaranteed. But in newer large devices, everything-connects-to-everything architectures are impractical.

Signal placement and routing are a challenge because most complex architectures are not completely symmetrical. What works in one area will not work in another, and the fitter must know the particular target device's asymmetries to place and route judiciously. Plus, they involve a maze of interconnects and multitudes of interacting signals. So the fitter must now correctly interconnect logic as well as squeeze it all in.

For placing and routing, some of the classic ASIC algorithms and techniques are being used. These include the MIN CUT algorithm, bin packing, the greedy approach, and rip-up and retry. The MIN CUT algorithm reduces the number of signal routes used, while bin packing works on filling blocks or



[3] Typical of those complex PLDs categorized as having multiple-partitioned architectures, the MACH210 (top left) consists of four blocks of programmable array logic interconnected by a programmable switch matrix; in effect, each block is a separate PLD. An example of a product-term allocation architecture is Intel's 5AC312 EPLD (top right)—shown here with only three of its 12 macrocells for simplicity). Each macrocell (A, B, and C) can take over a four-product-term

group from, or lend it to, any adjacent macrocell. In contrast, product-term-joining architectures, like the Atmel 2500's (bottom left), share product terms; in addition to its four dedicated product terms, the combinational logic can share the product terms of two buried registers. Lastly, in expanded-term architectures like Altera's MAX EPM5128 (above), a macrocell can get extra product terms from a spare array.

partitions to the full before moving onto others. The greedy approach's cost functions mandate how solutions are judged to be optimal. With rip-up and retry the routing "logjams" for one particular placement must be broken up and routes torn up to allow adjustments to the placement. In the future, approaches like simulated annealing—a more recent method for finding optimal solutions—are likely to be used.

TO PROBE FURTHER. *Practical Design Using Programmable Logic* by David Pellerin and Michael Holley (Prentice-Hall, New York, 1991) comprehensively describes PLDs and FPGAs, initially through a historical perspective and then through today's design environments. Details on the MIN CUT algorithm, bin packing, the greedy approach, and rip-up and retry are found in the article, "An Efficient Heuristic Procedure for Partitioning Graphs" by B.W. Kernighan and S. Lin published in the February 1979 issue of the *Bell Systems Technical Journal*, while simulated annealing is described in the article "Optimization by Simulated Annealing" by S. Kirkpatrick, C.D. Gelatt Jr., and M.P. Vecchi in the May 13, 1983 issue of *Science*.

Many design automation topics will be co-

vered at the 1992 29th ACM/IEEE Design Automation Conference, June 8-12, Anaheim, Calif., and at the 1992 European Design Automation Conference (EURO-DAC), Sept. 7-10 in Hamburg, Germany. Contact: IEEE Computer Society, 1730 Massachusetts Ave., Washington, D.C., 20036-1903; 202-371-1013; fax, 202-728-0884.

Another relevant meeting is the 1992 IEEE International Symposium on Circuits and Systems—IsCAS '92, scheduled for May 10-13 in San Diego, Calif. Contact: Stanley A. White, 433 E. Avenida Cordoba, San Clemente, Calif. 92672; 714-498-5119.

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When the lines go down

In a national emergency in the United States, organizations in affected areas will unite to repair or, at least, minimize damage

Ever since the U.S. court-supervised breakup of the Bell system in 1984, the nation's telecommunications infrastructure has evolved and diversified at an unprecedented pace. New suppliers and vendors have entered the field, each offering its own assets and services. New technologies, such as optical-fiber transmission and advanced signaling systems, have been developed and are being implemented at a rapid rate by major carriers. And new systems, based on emerging technologies like digital cellular radio, mobile satellite, and air-to-ground phones, are being put into place by independent companies.

But this rapid rate of change has also posed one critical, but often overlooked, challenge: its impact on telecommunications planning for national security and emergency preparedness (NS/EP). When the technology is advancing so quickly, how is it possible to ensure that NS/EP users will be provided with telecommunications service in every emergency and disaster, including natural catastrophes, terrorist attacks, and even nuclear war?

Like the general population of the United States, NS/EP workers have grown increasingly reliant on telecommunications to provide a warning of any impending disasters and to help workers respond to them. To ensure that kind of continued support, it is essential for both government and industry to stay alert to the state of the telecommunications art and to take whatever steps are necessary in providing the necessary facilities. Federal and state entities such as Congress and the courts, the Federal Communications Commission, and state public utility commissions, all have roles to play in that effort.

Disasters can affect telecommunications service in a variety of ways—from creating

extraordinary levels of traffic to damaging or destroying parts of the service's infrastructure. In planning how to deal with disaster, industry, in the course of day-to-day business, can anticipate incidents that occur with a reasonably predictable frequency—such as tornadoes, floods, and cable cuts—and can provide for alternate routing and a rapid reconstitution of facilities. In most cases, the increasing capabilities and redundancies in the telecommunications industry work to aid that endeavor, cushioning the effect of individual network element outages so well that the average user remains unaware that anything has gone wrong.

Federal, state, and local planners, however, must look well beyond day-to-day situations to provide for other contingencies as well. They must consider such possibilities as political crises, military and terrorist attacks, regional disasters, and other incidents that could powerfully affect a broad segment of the public. The goal is to ensure that essential government operations continue through all emergencies, including those accompanied by heavy damage to the infrastructure, whether wrought by man or nature.

Most of the Federal government's telecommunications, even its so-called private networks, depend at some point on commer-

cialties for Government planners charged with anticipating what measures and equipment will be needed to provide emergency telecommunications in all types of disasters. Industry developments, being primarily responsive to the needs of the majority of users, will not necessarily be responsive to the needs of NS/EP users. (The Federal government probably accounts for less than 5 percent of the traffic on the public switched network, and only a fraction of that traffic represents NS/EP users.)

Clearly, responding to what is needed for NS/EP telecommunications would be easier and less costly if standards guaranteeing interoperability of equipment in emergencies were established and followed. But since U.S. standards-setting bodies have been set up by industry—not by government, as in most other nations—NS/EP interests do not predominate in standards-setting activities. Also, compliance with those standards is only voluntary.

Adding to the difficulty of protecting NS/EP interests in the standards-setting process are the large number of different U.S. standards-setting bodies and the separate tracks that have evolved for standards for telephone and data. Finally, the pace of developing standards in the new technology areas does not always match the rapid pace of change in technologies and the national infrastructure.

PLANNERS AND DOERS. To ensure emergency telecommunications, a web of emergency structures, plans, and procedures are in place, with links from the local provider level to the national level. Involved in this web are:

- Individual companies and providers.
 - Regional and national corporate entities.
 - State and local emergency management centers such as State Emergency Operations Centers.
 - Federal regional telecommunications planners and managers like the General Services Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
 - A national-level set of players from both government and industry, such as the National Communications System (NCS), Arlington, Va., and the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC), Washington, D.C.
- The NCS is charged with ensuring the reliability and responsiveness of NS/EP telecommunications from a national perspective. Its dual mission is to assist the President and

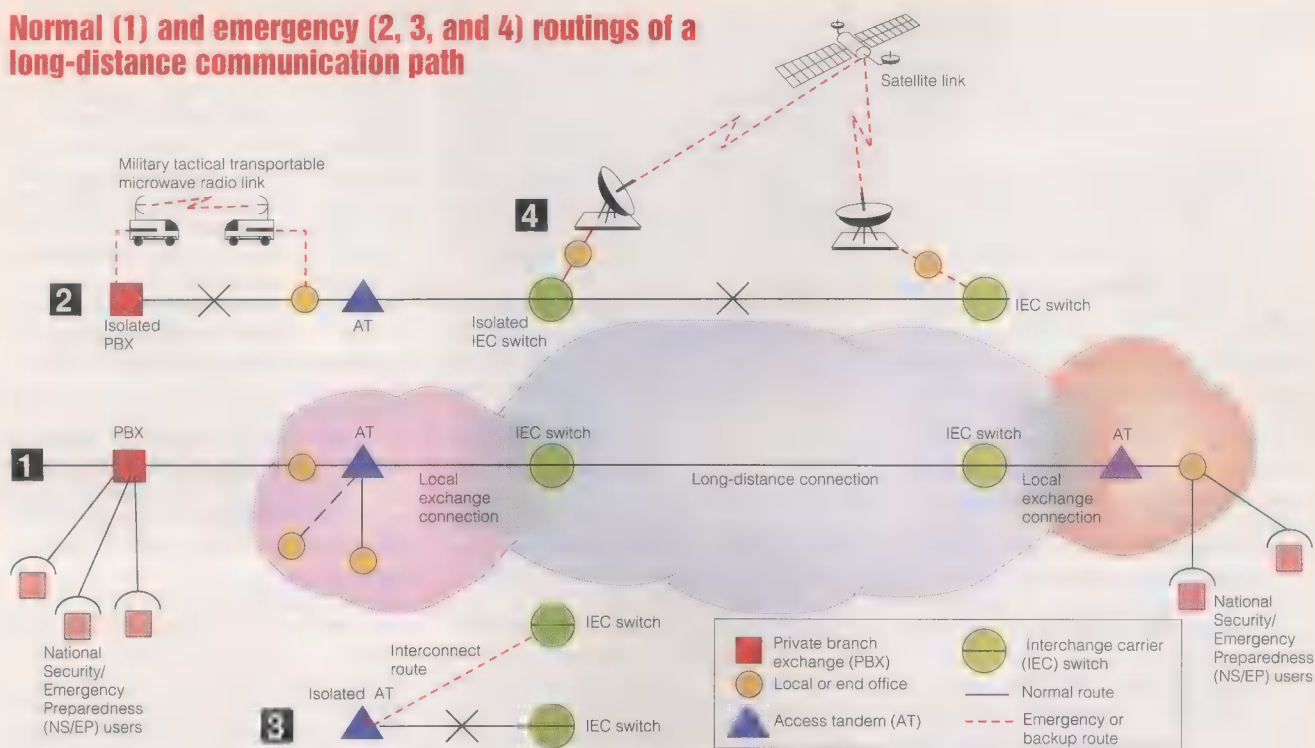
National security and
emergency preparedness
concerns do not get
priority from U.S.
standards-setting bodies

cial carrier facilities. In the United States, all participants in the public switched network—service suppliers, equipment vendors, system integrators, legislators, regulators, and users—share in shaping the structure of the network. This contrasts with telecommunications in most other nations, where the government runs these networks (although privatization is a recent trend).

With so many participants, the U.S. infrastructure of the public switched network is implemented with diverse modes of technology. Although that diversity can mitigate the effects of emergencies, it also creates un-

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Normal (1) and emergency (2, 3, and 4) routings of a long-distance communication path



A typical long-distance communication path [1] comprises a wide range of equipment types: the customer premises equipment (red and orange), the end office and access tandem switches of the caller's local exchange carrier (yellow and blue), one or more interexchange carrier switches (green), and the receiving local exchange carrier (pink and light orange). Means for coping with damage to the path will vary depending upon which part is damaged and how urgent it is to restore service. In [2], connectivity for an isolated National Security and Emergency

Preparedness (NS/EP) facility can be restored by mobile or transportable assets such as the military tactical transportable (MTT) microwave radio link. In [3], a (leased) carrier can be interconnected to another switch as backup if an access tandem loses its connectivity to the long-distance switch that usually serves it. In [4], commercial communication satellites, which can handle large volumes of traffic over long distances, are especially suitable for reconnecting facilities separated by large bodies of water.

Defining terms

Access tandem: a switching system that concentrates and distributes traffic originating and terminating in one local access and transport area (LATA) and flowing among LATAs.

Intelligent network: a set of evolving telecommunications capabilities providing customized software-controlled network services. It can be configured by the customer independent of service provider activities.

Interoperable telemetry, tracking, and command facilities: a facility that combines the functions of a satellite operations center and telemetry, tracking, and command operations for all satellites within a family, such as three-axis or spin-stabilized satellites.

Orderwire: a voice or data circuit used by technical control and maintenance personnel for setting up, monitoring, and controlling communications systems and services.

Spin-stabilized satellite: a satellite that is kept in a stable orbit by exploiting gyroscopic action. The satellite normally includes a counter-rotating section on which the antennas are mounted so that they are able to point constantly toward the earth.

Three-axis stabilized satellite: a satellite that is kept in a stable orbit through the use of jet thrusters, one for each axis—yaw, pitch, and roll. The surface of the satellite facing the earth supports the antennas.

his key staff in exercising their wartime and nonwartime functions and responsibilities and in coordinating the planning for and provision of NS/EP communications for the Federal government under all circumstances, including crisis, emergency, attack, recovery, and reconstitution.

Within the NCS are 23 Federal member agencies and a Manager. The Office of the Manager of the NCS provides the support needed to carry out the NS/EP telecommunications responsibilities. Since the NCS was set up in 1963, the Office of the Manager has served as a focus for joint or cooperative action between the government and the telecommunications industry.

For example, the NSTAC was established in 1982 in anticipation of the impending change in the industry's internal structure. It serves as the Federal government's principal mechanism for working with industry in matters affecting NS/EP. Composed of the chief executive officers of key U.S. telecommunications companies, the NSTAC provides advice to the President from the telecommunications industry perspective, based on the deliberations of its various task forces on specific issues.

Further, through early efforts of the Manager of the NCS and the NSTAC, the National Coordinating Center for Telecommunications was created. The center, a unique

organization because it is jointly funded and staffed by the Federal government and the telecommunications industry, serves as a watch center for national telecommunications. It participates in preparedness exercises and ensures priority provisioning or restoration of essential services in emergencies.

THE KEY. Readiness is key to reliability and responsiveness in emergencies. Preparation can be seen in the many measures that are built into the telecommunications infrastructure to minimize damage and service disruption as, for example, seismic design being required in the construction of California facilities.

Nationwide, emergency generators are located at most common carriers' key nodes, are fuel reserves to operate the generators for a limited period of time. In most carrier networks, different paths are used to link cities and towns. Also, buildings that house critical users can request (at extra cost) multiple connections to the public switched network to provide for protection against failure of the primary access link.

Military organizations like the National Guard, along with some industrial companies, have a limited amount of mobile or transportable equipment that can be deployed when damage occurs. As part of a nationwide emergency telecommunica-

tions service program, the Federal government has developed a group of wireline and satellite system "augmentations," which might be used to help restore NS/EP communications in case of war or other major emergencies.

THE EQUIPMENT. Which of the augmentations or other equipment should be deployed in any emergency depends mostly on the urgency of restoring service and on the portion of the network that has been damaged [Fig. 1]. In industry, companies have a variety of methods to restore service to subscribers after damage or loss. At the national level, priority was given during the cold war years to procuring the means to serve NS/EP users under projected post-nuclear attack circumstances. Similar types of equipment are appropriate for use as well in major disasters, and Federal equipment may be required if infrastructure damage is massive or widespread. The possibility of the "big one"—a major earthquake in California or one along the New Madrid fault in Middle America—is not to be ignored.

The phone connection of Fig. 1 is a typical communication channel between NS/EP users. As such it can serve as a model to illustrate the various means (major equipment types) available for reconstituting the channel, depending on which segment is damaged. Customer premises equipment such as a telephone, fax, or computer—possibly connected through a private branch exchange—is usually owned and maintained by the user.

The local or end office and the access tandem (AT) belong to the local exchange carrier network serving the caller. Although there are many end offices in each such network, usually only one serves each user, and only one AT links to the user's long-distance carrier.

If the link between an important user's facility and its end office is severed, connectivity can be restored by military tactical transportable (MTT) radio assets [Fig. 2]. An example is the National Guard's mobile microwave unit AN/TRC-170—an augmentation to the public switched network in conjunction with earthquake response exercises. Such a mobile unit can restore one or two T1 circuits (one T1 carries 1.544 Mb/s, which is the equivalent of 24 voice channels).

MTT technology has been used in exercises to restore public switched network circuits, support standard telephone units, and secure telephones as well as facsimile and data devices. It has also been used to demonstrate the ability to link the Federal Aviation Administration's microwave network to the public switched network. A digital interface device was developed to allow connection of MTT equipment to the public switched network's digital facilities. This tactical radio equipment can operate in either line-of-sight or tropospheric scatter mode.

If the damage to the communications

channel is to a segment connecting one network with another, one of the carrier interconnect augmentations would be the most appropriate way to restore service [Fig. 3]. One of these augmentations can accommodate larger volumes of traffic than the MTT can. As illustrated in Fig. 3, it can reconstitute an internetwork link by connecting the caller's AT to a different interexchange carrier switch than the one usually serving the connection.

Carrier interconnects use existing terrestrial facilities in nonstandard ways to provide alternatives to normal routes for NS/EP traffic. Interconnects can be set up between nodes of the same carrier or between two different carriers—for example, between two local or two interexchange carriers or between one of each type. The volume of NS/EP traffic on such a link can typically require capacities anywhere from a fraction of T1 to multiple T1s.

In planning for after a nuclear attack, the Office of the Manager uses carrier interconnects as appropriate. Locations for these interconnects utilize facilities judged unlikely to be damaged in an attack. However, interconnects can be used by NS/EP traffic in all situations where standard paths between switches would otherwise be blocked by damage.

In industry planning for day-to-day situations, certain interexchange carriers routinely lease capacity from another such carrier, which allows for occasional overflow traffic to be routed onto the other carrier's network. Carrier interconnect augmentations are generally made in advance, as they are contractual in nature and require considerable coordination in setting them up.

SATELLITES. Satellite systems can be the best option for link restoration under a range of circumstances, most especially when the long-haul segment of the channel has been interrupted—for example, when an enclave of operating telecommunications networks must be reconnected with the public switched network at a considerable distance [Fig. 4]. Such an emergency occurred recently when commercial satellite assets were used in restoring connectivity between Puerto Rico and the U.S. mainland after Hurricane Hugo roared through several Caribbean islands.

Many days after Hugo's passing, Roosevelt Roads Naval Station in Ceiba, Puerto Rico, the home of the Navy's south Atlantic command, still had only sporadic communications with mainland command centers. Deployment equipment, consisting of an equipment-laden truck and a 4.5-meter trailer-mounted antenna, was rapidly dispatched from Alaska to assist. After an 8000-km flight to the Caribbean in an Alaska National Guard C-130 transport, a three-man crew set up operations. Using a satellite that appeared higher above the horizon than the one that serves Alaska, lines strung into the nearby Navy communications command center linked the Navy with Alascom's ex-

tensive long-distance network.

In planning for scenarios of nuclear attack on the United States, the NCS office has enhanced the potential for interconnecting users through commercial satellites by augmenting some fixed commercial satellite system earth stations. The augmentations allow operations with satellites operating at 4–6 GHz within the domestic arc, and provide an alternative means of connecting selected switches in the AT&T Co. network.

Low-cost 4–6-GHz earth stations that are part fixed and part transportable have been developed and purchased as well. To control and monitor each of the two families of domestic satellites (three-axis stabilized and spin-stabilized), interoperable telemetry, tracking, and command (ITT&C) facilities have been acquired. Such control facilities would be needed only if the commercial satellite system's ITT&C facilities were not operating.

Emergency plans and procedures for the use of all these enhancements have been validated through exercises. The satellite system augmentations can be used at the discretion of the President under authority given him by Section 706 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

WIRELESS. High-frequency radio plays a significant role in emergencies, and has been demonstrated many times in the past. Recently, the HF radio assets of Federal agencies have been organized for interoperability in a program called Shared Resources (Shares), whereby radio messages are relayed from point to point to reach destinations that would otherwise be cut off. The first operational Shares message was sent during the Hurricane Hugo emergency to Puerto Rico, carrying an urgent request for information on the medical supplies needed. A network of 22 stations from 10 Federal agencies linked the mainland to the disaster area.

In major disasters, cellular telephones as well as HF radio have proven valuable for emergency workers while downed subscriber lines are being replaced. The cellular handsets have the advantage of not being tethered and can function even where damage to local lines and poles is heavy. Operation depends, of course, on service being available in the area and on the serving mobile telecommunications switching office surviving intact. Cellular handsets were used in the Loma Prieta earthquake emergency in California when entry into damaged buildings was required to restore service. Obviously, cellular phones can be of immediate use to individuals who might otherwise be isolated in the damaged zone.

In both Hurricane Hugo and the California earthquake emergencies, mobile/transportable, self-contained telecommunications were called into play by cooperating agencies. A variety of equipment was used: satellite systems, cellular radio-telephone systems, other wireless telephone systems, and portable PBX equipment.

Almost universally cellular and HF radio equipment were valued by emergency response coordinators. For example, a dozen cellular phones were brought into the Sacramento-based California Emergency Operations Center for outgoing calls, freeing up the center's published numbers for incoming traffic. Where there were compatibility problems among the radio frequencies of cooperating agencies, cellular technology provided a simple solution. However, the network load at the center often saturated the local cell traffic capacity.

'PEOPLE' ACTION. Besides having equipment ready, success in dealing with emergencies depends critically on human preparation—extending from the provision of plans and procedures to the effective use of people and equipment.

The Office of the Manager of NCS provides the plans and procedures on which personnel training for contingencies is based. In the course of training, the procedures are tested, and both the team of peo-

ple and the equipment they operate are exercised according to plan. The staff of the joint industry-government National Coordinating Center for Telecommunications, Arlington, Va., further assists in the initiation, coordination, restoration, and reconstitution of NS/EP telecommunications services or facilities. The center helps in exchanging information quickly and expediting NS/EP telecommunications responses.

The National Plan for Communications Support in Non-War-time Emergencies provides standard operating procedures for the Office of the Manager of NCS, which receives external tasking from client agencies and member organizations as well. For authorizing priority treatment, important mechanisms have been identified, such as those in the new Federal Telecommunications Service Priority System. Early warning mechanisms also play a vital role in responsiveness, such as tracking and monitoring the progress of hurricanes and tropical storms by various means.

Industry has techniques for dealing with extraordinary levels of traffic that lead to network congestion and consequently to degraded service. Network management controls can be applied—for example, controlling the ratio of calls completed to calls attempted. Such management control was implemented for several days during the Loma Prieta earthquake emergency in California, blocking three out of four incoming calls to favor outgoing traffic.

However, public switched network management cannot at present give end-to-end priority to calls made by NS/EP users. The network cannot identify when an individual call is NS/EP traffic and carry that information across all elements that process the call en route—although such a capability may become available in the near future.

The proven method to preserve telecommunications capacity for critical users at their primary location is the use of private or dedicated networks. Truly private networks are extremely expensive and are

Maintaining power in emergencies

Although much can be done to protect a power system's generators against damage from earthquakes, storms, and other disasters, the same cannot be said for the system's power delivery. Generating plants can be sited away from geographic faults, surrounded by dikes (to keep them from being inundated during hurricanes), and braced against all but the most powerful of forces. But the lines that carry the power must go where the customers are, and economic reality says that every line cannot be installed in such a way as to make it disaster-proof. Therefore, although power utilities do what they can to prevent loss of service, their main emphasis is necessarily on developing plans for restoring that service as quickly as possible after the emergency has ended.

In the Northeast, where hurricanes and ice storms are the most common causes of outages, prevention consists mainly of trimming trees that overhang power distribution lines. However, in the West, where earthquakes are the big threat, the emphasis is on seismic bracing of buildings and substations and on installing substation circuit breakers and other gear that can withstand the swaying caused by ground motion without tripping.

But, for all areas, developing a disaster-recovery plan is another key pre-disaster activity. As Bruce Cocks, manager of the electric lines department at Long Island Lighting Co. (Lilco), Hicksville, N.Y., puts it, "You can't have a disaster and then develop a plan." The purpose of such a plan is to get repair crews to the right locations fast. According to Cocks, the fast part is easy. The challenge is to figure out what the right locations are.

Step No. 1 in any plan, therefore, is damage assessment. Different utilities go about it in different ways, but all agree that gathering information to determine the damage is paramount. Since power lines are spread out all over the service area, damage assessment takes a combination of driving, hiking, and even flying over the affected area in helicopters to note things like downed poles, fallen conductors,

dangling transformers, or blown disconnect fuses.

Once the damage reports have been gathered at a central location, repairs can be prioritized and crews dispatched. Top priority, understandably, goes to restoring high-tension transmission lines. Those lines, which are carried on tall pylons above tree height, carry bulk power from generating stations to substations. On Long Island, according to Cocks, those lines are not usually damaged in storms.

In Texas, however, the picture is different. Leonard Wideman, manager of the Engineering Planning Division of Houston Lighting and Power Co., said that hurricanes there often spawn tornadoes, which create a lot of flying debris. If the debris gets blown against a tower, it can either damage it directly or add so much wind facing to it that the structure cannot withstand the wind's force.

Once the transmission lines are back in service, the main job begins: reconstituting the distribution system. Generally, the first rule is to make those repairs that will restore power to the largest number of customers with the least effort. Even more important is to restore power to hospitals and other medical facilities, police stations, water-pumping stations, and other essential parts of the infrastructure.

The final step in recovery is a post-disaster assessment of how well the recovery went so that the plan can be refined as necessary.

LOCAL VARIATIONS. Although the general approach to recovery for all power utilities is similar, details differ extensively. Lilco, for example, changes its entire organizational structure in emergencies, using the power substation as the main organizing unit. Pre-assigned teams of people report to the substations instead of their usual workplaces. In Houston, the service area is divided into zones, and the crews report to locations in those zones, some of which may be substations. In the area served by the Pacific Gas and Electric Co., San Francisco, which covers about two-thirds of California, crews simply report to their usual work locations, according to

Lyman Shaffer, Pacific Gas and Electric's director of corporate security.

One thing that distinguishes earthquake-prone California from other locations is its approach to warehousing. Other utilities are able to keep their repair supplies and equipment in rather few locations, but, Shaffer points out, Pacific Gas and Electric now stockpiles its material at many sites because an earthquake could completely destroy any given warehouse and its contents.

Another difference among utilities is their attitude toward practice drills. While Lilco conducts two formal drills per year and Pacific Gas and Electric does one, Houston Lighting and Power prefers to conduct reviews at the operating zone level at the start of each year's hurricane season. Crews review their plans at those sessions, but they do not travel to their emergency duty locations.

One very important decision that every utility must make early in any emergency is whether it can handle the damage with its own crews or will need help from other utilities. If it decides to requisition help from its sister utilities via long-standing cooperative agreements, the entire management of the crisis must be handled differently. As Lilco's Cocks points out, the company's own crews must then act as managers and guides since the "foreign" crews are unfamiliar with the area. Also, a major effort must be made to find suitable accommodations for the visitors.

In all emergencies, of course, setting up housing and ensuring supplies of food and water must be planned well in advance. Arrangements are made with hotels, motels, grocery stores, and other important suppliers. In areas where hurricanes strike, the utilities typically have several days' warning so they can fine-tune their plans as the storm approaches. While technical crews make last-minute preparations, commercial representatives and power consultants are pressed into service to make the logistical arrangements. —Michael J. Riezenman

almost never used. Dedicated networks, which run on common carrier transmission facilities but are devoted solely to one user, are more reasonably priced, but they are still expensive since they require continuous payment for the provided channels, whether or not those channels are in use.

"Virtual" private networks, which utilize variable public switched routing instead of dedicated paths but reserve a certain level of capacity for network users, are much more reasonably priced. Currently, major research is being conducted by the Office of the Manager of NCS on how best to provide NS/EP users with priority treatment throughout the public switched network, call by call, to provide a potential long-term solution to ensuring NS/EP telecommunications in stressed environments.

LESSONS LEARNED. One of the primary service interdependencies, which was highlighted by Hurricane Hugo, is the one that exists between telecommunications and power [see "Maintaining power in emergencies," p. 43]. Emergency electrical generators routinely operate for hours and days, but emergency power needs during Hugo lasted for weeks or months in the islands, where closed airports hindered delivery of emergency equipment.

In the Carolinas, the loss of commercial electric power was the main source of trouble in continuing and restoring telecommunications service. Communications failures after the storm were due mostly to failure of emergency power systems. In general, while the switched networks in Puerto Rico and the Carolinas remained operable after Hugo, they became extremely congested, and users experienced long delays in receiving a dial tone and completing calls.

Some network elements proved more vulnerable than others to storm damage. Many island microwave towers were misaligned; earth station terminals and antennas were severely damaged; and telephone poles and lines were downed by falling trees. Further damage to cables in Puerto Rico occurred afterward, through lack of coordination between power and telephone authorities during debris removal and restoration efforts.

However, as in the California earthquake disasters, automated telephone switches survived virtually intact.

In the California earthquake, major industry facilities, switches, end offices, and local distribution plant proved less susceptible to damage than the commercial power system. Most communications operations were sustained by batteries and backup emergency generators. Emergency planning and earthquake exercises paid off by reducing confusion and making early efforts to respond possible.

Also in evidence was the high professionalism and public service ethos of private industry through the many NSTAC member organizations who volunteered hardware,

parts, supplies, and other assistance through the National Coordinating Center for Telecommunications. One company, McCaw Communications Inc., Kirkland, Wash., provided over 1200 mobile/portable cellular telephones for free local and state government use in the early stages of the emergency.

WHITHER NOW? Emerging technologies can be viewed as a blessing and a bane. While most industry members feel that new developments tend to enhance survivability in the long term, some say that certain trends brought about by new technologies increase the vulnerability of the public switched network. Specific incidents, such as last year's extended outages in carrier networks implementing a new signaling system, can be viewed with alarm or accepted as indications that setbacks are not always avoidable in achieving long-term improvement.

The rapid change in technology can introduce waves in the NS/EP planning process as well. For example, through recent industry developments, separate, common-channel signaling can result in more efficiency and economy of operation than that provided by the older "in-band" call signaling. But wherever a carrier has implemented the new Signaling System 7 (SS7), a second network of switches and databases, using packet-switched technology, is required for

network damage or congestion. A task force has identified capabilities in the public switched network today that could help, as well as key elements required to achieve more capabilities. The development of new industry standards would be required, as well as new hardware and software.

In still another area, government and the NSTAC have recently noted that NS/EP requirements are not being considered in the development of new wireless digital technologies—a part of the mushrooming mobile communications sector. The use of low-rate compressed voice for spectral efficiency on these networks will inhibit the use of conventional modems for data services. Tools of the NS/EP user such as PCs, facsimile, and secure telephone units, which operate well on current analog mobile systems, may not be able to work on the new mobile systems. That area represents still another challenge, this time with a narrow time window for action.

Standards involvement in all of the above areas is very essential. The government needs to represent NS/EP interests in the many bodies that are setting industry's standards. Moreover, it needs to do it quickly enough to have some impact. For its part, industry needs to see that the many standards-setting bodies are adequately coordinating with one another. There is also

a need to establish new standards bodies as soon as technological developments raise interoperability concerns.

TO PROBE FURTHER. "Technical challenges to a decentralized phone system," September 1990, *IEEE Spectrum*, by Trudy E. Bell, the third in a series, describes technical advances and changes in the regulatory climate in U.S. telephony since the court-supervised divestiture of AT&T Co. Earlier articles in the series, "Telephone challenges: a plethora of services," July 1990, by Tekla S. Perry,

and "New pay phones hit the street," May 1990, by Glenn Zorpette, shed light on the proliferation of services and equipment available as a result of deregulation.

An article by John G. Grimes and Kenneth B. Boheim, "National System Provides Survivable Communications" in *Signal*, March 1990, described national level activities at that time. Earlier, concerns of the military were described in "The Earthquake Threat," by Peter Grier in *Military Forum*, January/February 1989.

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A web of emergency structures, plans, and procedures insure U.S. telecommunications in any crisis

setting up the call. Thus, the trend toward SS7 use has created a new problem in NS/EP planning since it is now necessary to ensure the restoration of two channels, the signaling channel as well as the one for communications.

However, emerging technologies show great potential for improving capabilities to assist in emergencies. Among other developments is the Intelligent Network, made possible by the implementation of SS7, whereby a call could theoretically be routed to a specific NS/EP individual, regardless of that user's geographical position on the public switched network. However, an NSTAC task force addressing the Intelligent Network has observed that the use of any NS/EP user identification and location capability has not yet been universally adopted by industry. Until it is, ubiquitous access cannot be provided.

In another area, the NSTAC is assisting the government with ensuring NS/EP user call-completion with minimum delay during

Maxwell's grand unification

The notion that electromagnetic effects travel through space at the speed of light was a stroke of genius

In the second half of the 19th century, theory was starting to grapple with electromagnetic phenomena. The battlefield soon drew two Scotsmen, both well armed with mathematical skills. One, William

Thomson, was to fall by the wayside after some limited successes, though he later became Lord Kelvin. But the other, James Clerk Maxwell, succeeded.

In a series of letters to Thomson in the middle 1850s, Maxwell outlined his ideas on where to pick up the path to a theory of a "whole mass of confusion," as he called it. He felt the key lay in the *electrotonic state*, Michael Faraday's name for inductive effects. Maxwell's first step toward an electromagnetic theory, therefore, was a paper in 1856 on this vague, ill-formed concept. He wrote this paper, "On Faraday's Lines of Force," when he was just 24. For it, he borrowed Thomson's 1847 idea of calculating a vector from another vector by means of the curl vector operation (the word *curl* being Maxwell's contribution), a move important to this day. Next followed "On Physical Lines of Force," published during 1861-62, which further clarified the electrotonic state in terms of a mechanical model and introduced yet more mathematical machinery, in particular, the integral theorems of Cambridge mathematician George Stokes, a friend of both Maxwell and Thomson. Finally, in 1865, came "The Dynamical Theory of the Electromagnetic Field."

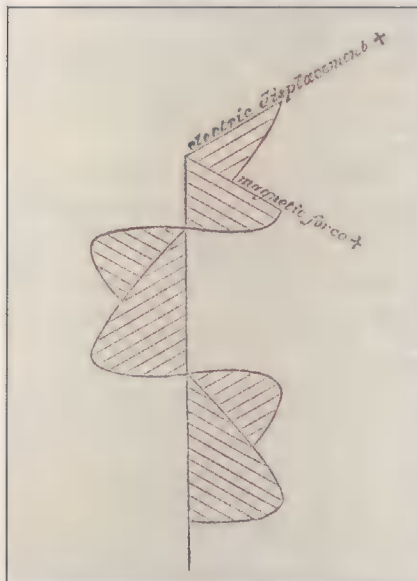
In this third paper, with the mechanical model now gone, Maxwell presents his theory in essentially its final form. What had started in Faraday's wonderfully imaginative mind as the electrotonic state had become Maxwell's *electromagnetic momentum*. Today it is called the *vector potential*, a term first used by Maxwell in 1871. The curl of the vector potential is the magnetic field vector. Despite this, the third paper (like the second) would look well-nigh unintelligible

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to a modern electrical engineer used to vectors because it presents the theory as 20 equations, in a hodge-podge mix of component and quaternionic notation.

PROPAGATING FIELD. But the physics is all there, and the conclusion is astounding: electromagnetic effects travel through space at the speed of light. Indeed, light itself is a propagating transverse electromagnetic field [see illustration]. By showing the science of light and optics is merely a branch of electromagnetism, Maxwell had achieved the second great unification in physics. (The first was Newton's unification of terrestrial and celestial mechanics.) Here, too, Maxwell stated that the energy of electromagnetic phenomena resides not just in electrified bodies, but also in the space surrounding such bodies.

Maxwell's famous equations, which sum-



Oxford at the Clarendon Press, 1873

marize the electrical knowledge of his day, state that electric lines of force are created either by electric charge or by time-varying magnetic fields, while magnetic lines of force are created either by electric currents or by time-varying electric fields. This last part was uniquely Maxwell, as it represents his famous *displacement current*. That a time-varying electric field could produce a magnetic field, just like a conduction current in a wire, was an audacious statement because there was no evidence for it.

Today, electrical engineering and physics professors "derive" the displacement current term by showing that, without it, the rest of the equations are inconsistent with

the conservation of electric charge. Maxwell did not, but his genius guided him to the correct result anyway.

Any inconsistency with charge conservation is all but undetectable in a closed circuit—and only closed circuits had been studied as, after all, what sense could an open electrical circuit make? But with the displacement current, an open circuit does make sense, and the displacement current is what gives life to radio, television, and radar waves, light, and X-rays, all of which are propagating electromagnetic energy.

At the time of his death of cancer at 48, in 1879, Maxwell's theory of electricity and magnetism was one of several. Its correctness was established only in 1887, when the German Heinrich Hertz discovered electromagnetic radiation at microwave frequencies, as predicted by Maxwell. Others, though, had not had to wait for Hertz; these true believers were members of a small group that has become known as the Maxwellians. They included the Englishmen John Poynting and Oliver Heaviside who, in 1883, simultaneously discovered how Maxwell's theory predicts that a propagating electromagnetic field transports energy through space.

Since the pioneering work of the Maxwellians, Maxwell's equations have been studied for over a century, and have proved one of the most successful theories in the history of science. For example, when Einstein found that Newtonian dynamics had to be modified to be compatible with the special theory of relativity, he also found that Maxwell's equations were already relativistically correct. Magnetic effects are, after all, relativistic effects produced by moving charges, and so Maxwell had automatically built relativity into his equations.

TO PROBE FURTHER. For the development of Maxwell's ideas, see Jed Z. Buchwald's *From Maxwell to Microphysics: aspects of electromagnetic theory in the last quarter of the nineteenth century* (University of Chicago Press, 1985). For what happened with electrodynamics during the two decades after Maxwell's death, see Bruce J. Hunt's *The Maxwellians* (Cornell University Press, 1991). For more on Oliver Heaviside, see this author's *Oliver Heaviside: Sage in Solitude* (IEEE Press, 1988).

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Through a bat's ear

The bat's sonar performance is encouraging researchers to disregard conventional distinctions between time and frequency domains

B

ats are the only mammal to inherit, rather than acquire, the ability to fly. They navigate and capture insects in the dark by means of echolocation, an active sonar that scientists have scrutinized for decades for

clues on how to refine radar and sonar systems. Recent experiments sponsored by the Office of Naval Research, Washington, D.C., show how the bats' acoustic imaging combines time- and frequency-domain operations in a variety of ways. One upshot is a design for a signal processor, now being put on a chip, that models the bat's acutely sensitive auditory neural system.

MID-AIR INTERCEPTION. Some bats home in on their targets by emitting chirps at ever shorter intervals, as is evident from photographs and ultrasonic tapes [Fig. 1]. Most species of bats transmit brief chirps of 0.5–10 ms at relatively long intervals. The squeaks are frequency-modulated in the ultrasonic range of 15–150 kHz. For instance, the fm signals of the big brown bat, *Eptesicus fuscus*, sweep two frequency ranges simultaneously—50–22 kHz or so in the first harmonic, 100–44 kHz or so in the second. These fm chirps are short, and each one yields a strobe-like image.

Other species of bats emit compound signals, in which constant-frequency (cf) signals lasting up to 100 ms are attached to the fm signals. For instance, the horseshoe bat, *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, emits a cf signal at about 83 kHz between fm chirps of 83 to 65 kHz. These bats use the cf components as narrowband signals, with the individual frequency serving as a carrier for the frequency and amplitude modulations that the target's fluttering imposes on echoes.

For a bat to classify targets, it has to characterize glints within an echo from various surfaces of the insect, for instance, its head and wing tips. The insect's flutter rate, about 10–100 Hz, is important. The horse-

shoe and other cf bats prefer fluttering targets, which they identify by registering the frequency of cf echoes with great accuracy. They use high-Q bandpass filters (Q values of several hundred) as a sort of spectrum analyzer that "zooms in" to expand the display of the cf frequency region.

In contrast, purely fm creatures, like the big brown bat, use their sounds as broadband signals, deriving images by integrating echo information across many frequencies. They determine the distance, or range, of targets from the delay of fm echoes (5.8 ms/m). In an echo with a known signal-to-noise ratio of 36 dB, the brown bat can detect delay changes of about 40 ns. A theoretically ideal receiver would do about the same. This feat requires parallel estimation of delay at many frequencies within the fm sweeps, followed by the efficient pooling of those estimates across frequencies.

TELLTALE CLUE. What's more, fm bats determine the target's shape very reliably, and thereby hang the most interesting clues to the echo-processing algorithms in the bat's brain.

At the top of Fig. 2, the range separation, Δr , between the moth's head and its wing is about 9 mm, resulting in a 50- μ s echo time separation, Δt . These echo components overlap because flying insects are such tiny targets—the glints are close together so the sonar sound lasts longer than the echo separation.

Furthermore, the integration time for echo processing by the brown bat is about 350 μ s. Consequently, echo components only 50 μ s apart will be smeared together into a single, spectrally complex echo with only one directly recognizable delay, t . This the bat measures to perceive target range, r . The interference spectrum of the overlapping echoes is what represents the echo time (or range) separation of the glints. But despite the rather long receiver integration time of 350 μ s, the brown bat perceives the actual echo time, and not merely a spectral coloration of the echo. Somehow the bat converts the echo spectrum back into the echo time separation.

FM ECHOES AND RANGE. The bat's ear of course picks up both the emitted sound and its echo. In the animal's auditory system are thousands of parallel bandpass filter "channels"—auditory receptors and their associated auditory neurons—tuned to different frequencies across the whole ultrasonic band of sounds. The spacing of their center frequencies defines a frequency scale

that is used for encoding the fm sweeps as spectrograms.

Spectrograms are usually displayed with a linear frequency scale, but these emission and echo spectrograms [Fig. 2, bottom] instead are plotted on a hyperbolic vertical frequency axis that corresponds to the frequency-mapping scale in the brown bat's auditory system. As the fm sweeps of the chirp pass through the bandpass filters, they evoke an auditory spectrogram (the sloping shaded areas marked "excitation" in the bottom left chart). This excitation then triggers a volley of neural discharges (the filled dots of the chart), equivalent to a neural spectrogram of the sonar transmission. This spectrogram serves the bat as a template for processing echoes.

When the bat's echo, altered by contact with the target, arrives several milliseconds later, it, too, evokes a volley of neural discharges. The echo and emission spectrograms are distinguished by the time that elapses between emission and echo at each frequency in the fm sweeps. The bat determines target range from these spectrogram delays by storing the volley of discharges representing the emission and then comparing it with the pattern formed upon reception of the echo.

The storage mechanism is a population of neurons that together respond at times ranging from about 5 to 35 ms after the emission. This spread of response latencies retains the emission spectrogram for up to 35 ms. These neurons form a system of parallel, multitapped delay lines—one delay line for each auditory frequency channel.

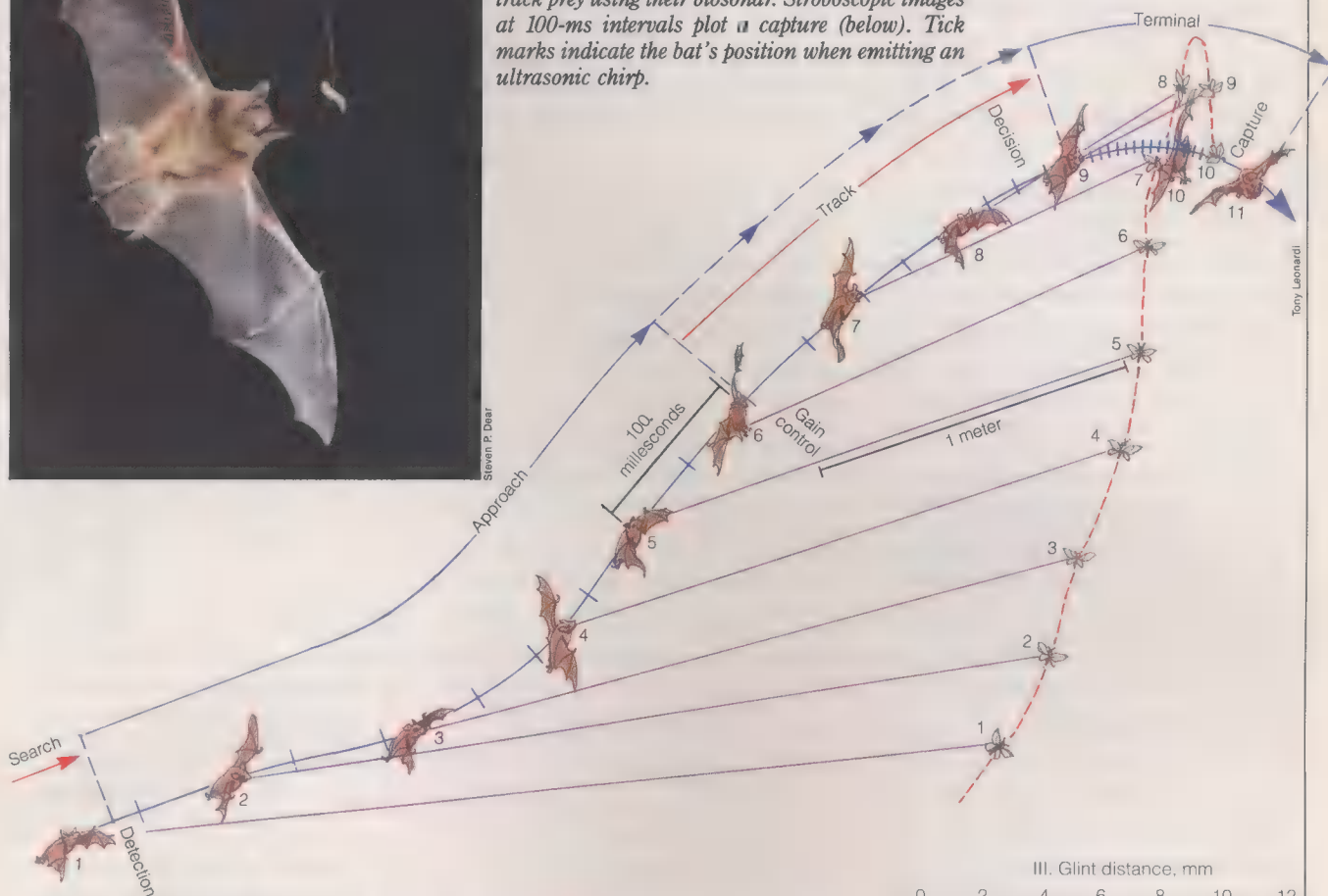
When an echo is received, it evokes discharges with a short latency that converge on longer-latency neurons still responding to the transmitted sound. Higher-level neurons (those located at a site to receive the convergence) register a coincidence between the discharge in response to the echo and some of the discharges in response to the earlier transmission. The probability of coincidence is greatest in those higher-level neurons where the latency delay of the discharge to the transmission equals the acoustic delay of the echo. The bat's estimation of the echo delay, t , consists of the ensemble of spectrogram delays across different frequencies in the fm sweeps, as represented by coincident-specific higher-level neurons (acting like tapped delays).

TARGET SHAPE. Recall that the bat's auditory system has a 350- μ s integration time. A moth that reflects two echo components

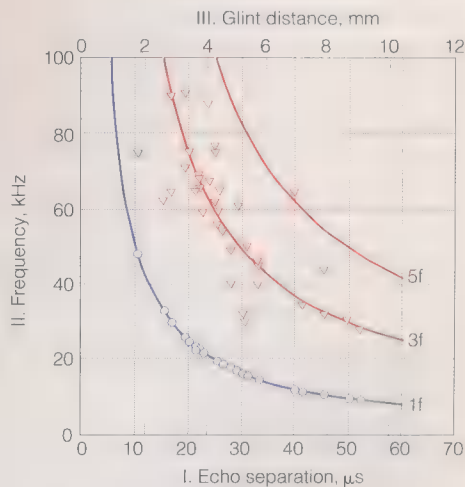
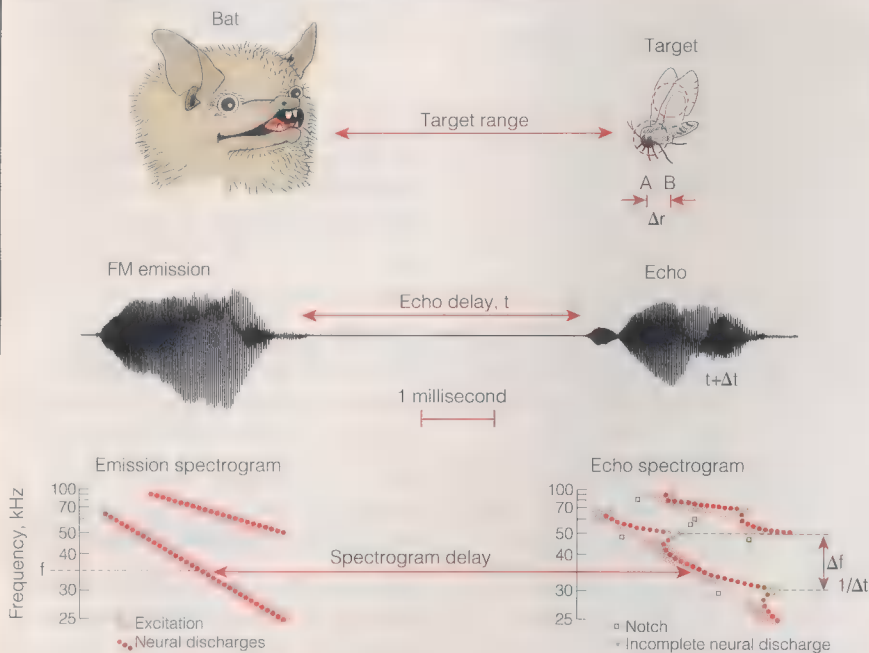
James A. Simmons, Prestor A. Saillant,
and Steven P. Dear Brown University



[1] Bats, such as the big brown bat seen pursuing a mealworm dangling on a thread (left), locate and track prey using their biosonar. Stroboscopic images at 100-ms intervals plot a capture (below). Tick marks indicate the bat's position when emitting an ultrasonic chirp.



[2] A bat compares a 2.5-ms emission with its echo (below) to determine not only the range of the target but also its shape—the spacing of glints from head A and wing B (Δr). These two components are returned in the echo at delays t and $t + \Delta t$. When plotted against a hyperbolic frequency axis, the spectrogram of the echo displays the bat's possible neural responses. The bat uses notches (an absence of neural excitation) to pick out glints within the overall large echo return. (Source: James A. Simmons)



[3] The brown bat's auditory system might do a frequency-to-time transform to sort overlapping echoes. This determines spacing between two glints of a moth's return by using the frequencies and spacing of notches (Δf in Fig. 2). The curves (1f, 3f, 5f, above) represent frequencies (axis II) of notches for different echo separations (axis I). Many of the bat's neural responses are tuned to two frequencies (circles and triangles), and the location of neurons on the bat's hyperbolic frequency map (axis III) decodes the spacing.

50 μ s apart will therefore evoke just one volley of neural discharges in the bat's auditory spectrogram. So what betrays the fact that the echo contains two components? The clue is the placement of spectral peaks and notches along the spectrogram's frequency axis.

Notches are caused by spectral interference and appear at regular frequency intervals, according to the different times of arrival of echoes from different glints [Fig.3]. To the ear, they indicate brief dips in the amount of auditory receptor excitation occurring at specific frequencies. In turn this leads to either the nonoccurrence of the neural discharges (open circles in the echo spectrogram) or their later-than-usual occurrence (the rightward drifting of solid dots around 30, 50, 70, and 90 kHz). The net effect: the scalloped appearance of the echo spectrogram.

The neural code for spectral notches is only part of the imaging process because the bat perceives the second glint itself from the spectrum. This can be demonstrated by delivering echoes to the bat just for the first glint, but filtering these echoes to include spectral notches at specific frequencies to mimic the presence of an additional echo component. The bat registers the target ■ having two glints.

BAT-INSPIRED DESIGN. Experimental studies of bat sonar have progressed to the point of developing a model sonar receiver based on the bat. Algorithms that break new ground by mixing time- and frequency-domain techniques to reconstruct target shape from echoes have already been tested successfully in ■ computer at Brown University. Now the goal is to develop ■ very large-scale integrated (VLSI) chip capable of real-time operation with these algorithms.

The model of the brown bat's sonar has three stages: ■ front end that mimics the inner ear in order to encode waveforms; a system of delay lines that determine echo delays; and another system that determines the spectrum of echoes and from it estimates the time separation of echoes from multiple target glints.

Collectively these stages carry out two signal-processing operations in parallel to assess target range and shape—spectrogram correlation and transformation (SCAT). Their outputs are then merged into one image. During spectrogram correlation sonar emissions and echoes are encoded and the overall delay of echoes is determined; spectrogram transformation then determines target shape from the spectral changes that are caused by the target.

Like the bat, the SCAT process picks up each sonar transmission at the moment it is broadcast and represents it as ■ spectrogram—and does the same for echoes when they are received. Every frequency in the emission and echo is registered within 81 parallel bandpass filters that mimic the frequency analysis by the bat's inner ear. The

center frequencies of these filters are arranged on a hyperbolic scale of frequency of 20–100 kHz, such that equal time increments separate the periods that correspond to adjacent center frequencies. For 81 filters, the period increment is 0.5 μ s. Thus the 20-kHz channel has a period of 50 μ s, and the adjacent channel (20.2 kHz) has a 49.5- μ s period and so on.

These bandpass filters are tuned with different degrees of sharpness to various frequencies, with filter Q-values increasing from 5 at 20 kHz to 25 at 100 kHz to mimic values observed in fm bats. The output of each bandpass filter is half-wave rectified and then smoothed with ■ lowpass filter at about 1 kHz, thus forming a series of 81 envelopes representing the typical excitation spectrograms for emission and echo.

After being segmented into 81 overlapping bands, the sonar transmission is coded into digital pulses (analogous to neural discharges in the bat's auditory system). The pulses are triggered by the filtered envelope in each frequency channel to mark the time at which the fm sweep passes through the corresponding filter frequency. Following each filter is ■ multitap delay line for storing the

digital pulses representative of the transmitted sound.

When an echo is received several milliseconds after transmission, the same bandpass filters are activated and similar digital pulses are triggered by their outputs. But these echo-evoked pulses are not sent through the delay lines. Instead, each one is simultaneously compared with (is used to gate) all the taps in the delay line, the goal being to locate the pulse representing the earlier transmission as it travels from one tap to the next in line.

The tap specific to the transmission can then be identified ■ any coincidence between the emission and echo pulses. The overall delay of the echo, or the target range, is estimated by averaging the coincidences among all the parallel delay lines.

The target's shape consists of the range spacing of glints—represented by the spectral interference of echoes from the glints, resulting in peaks and notches at specific frequencies. A spectral notch in the echo results in the absence of an emission-echo coincidence at that specific frequency. By finding all these notch and peak frequencies, the SCAT model determines how the target

has influenced the echo spectrum. Then from these notch frequency values, the model estimates the time difference between the two delays required to produce the notches, which is directly related to the distance between the glints returned by the target.

One version of the SCAT model, as diagrammed in Fig. 3, mimics the big brown bat's ability to locate spectral notches and interpret these fast by virtue of the hyperbolic relation between sound frequencies and location of specific neurons. The SCAT model synthesizes special oscillatory functions, based on damped cosines, that are "written" in each delay line. When an echo is received and all the oscillating functions are present, their average is approximately flat, or zero, and no second glint emerges in the image. But if specific oscillating functions are missing because of the nature of the echo's spectrum, their average is not flat but peaked at certain delays. These peaks constitute a spectrally derived image of the location of the second glint relative to the first glint with resolution superior to that of an ideal, cross-correlation receiver.

What next? The SCAT process is a general-purpose deconvolution technique that, thanks to the bat, disregards some conventional distinctions between time and frequency domains. The algorithm, with its hyperbolic relation, engenders a simple geometric structure ideal for VLSI chips. This is now being pursued jointly at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena and at Brown University.

Possible applications of these chips are in sensing and communications, including locating and classifying multiple radar and sonar targets, determining propagation times of seismic phenomena, and distinguishing multipath reverberation in complex acoustic environments.

TO PROBE FURTHER. A June 1990 article by Nobuo Suga in *Scientific American* describes neural mechanisms of sonar in the mustached bat. Articles by James Simmons in *The Journal of Comparative Physiology* (Vol. 166, pp. 449–70, and Vol. 167, pp. 589–616, 1990) describe in detail the bat's reconstruction of images.

The *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* and the *IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing* are other general relevant resources.

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Steven P. Dear is a research assistant professor at Brown, having previously worked in the laboratory of Nobuo Suga at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. ♦

A sonar receiver
based on the
brown bat's auditory
system has already
been simulated

A catalyst for U.S. competitiveness

Programs of the Commerce Department's Technology Administration are stressing cooperation with industry and academia

Only recently has the Federal government had a unit just for technology issues: the U.S. Commerce Department's Technology Administration, created by Congress in 1988. This fledgling organization has

already exercised its leadership by launching a product data exchange standards initiative, coordinating the U.S. response to Japan's intelligent manufacturing systems research proposal, and playing an active role in promoting technology transfer.

But the Commerce Department, Washington, D.C., has never been in a position to influence the R&D funding levels of other government agencies or prioritize technologies. Nor has Commerce itself been a major funder of R&D. The department's role instead has been to understand innovation as a system and try to make that system work as well as possible.

As a result, Commerce programs reflect different approaches. In some cases, the department acts as an *advocate* for industry within the Federal government. A good example of this role is its contribution to a recent Congressional resolution designed to clarify the tax treatment of good will and certain other intangible assets, including software. The bill proposes to extend the amortization period to 14 years. Believing that this would inhibit the competitiveness of the software industry, the department proposed an amendment that would ensure that software continues to be treated in accordance with current practices.

BALANCED AND EQUITABLE. The Commerce Department also acts as an advocate for industry with foreign governments. For example, Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Tokyo, proposed an international cooperative R&D program in intelligent manufacturing systems (IMS) in late 1989.

As initially structured, the program appeared to seek to access the best U.S. and

European manufacturing technology without offering anything in return. So to ensure that IMS and other such international programs proceed in a balanced and equitable manner, IMS was brought under the provisions of the 1988 U.S.-Japan Science and Technology Agreement. Through that pact, the proposed program was to be restructured and a decision made as to whether the United States should participate in it. The Commerce Department stepped in to help coordinate the U.S. industry response.

As a result of extensive discussions with the private sector, the United States has entered into a feasibility study on IMS that is expected to last approximately two years. The U.S. government also drafted "Terms of Reference" that were accepted by all participants in the IMS program—Japan, the European Community, Canada, Australia, and the European Free Trade Association. **SHARING THE BREAKTHROUGHS.** Hundreds of Federal laboratories, owned and/or operated by various Federal agencies, produce not only valuable basic research but also technological breakthroughs in a great many fields.

In the past, little effort was made to share the fruits of this work with the private sector—or even to identify what research and technology might be relevant for com-

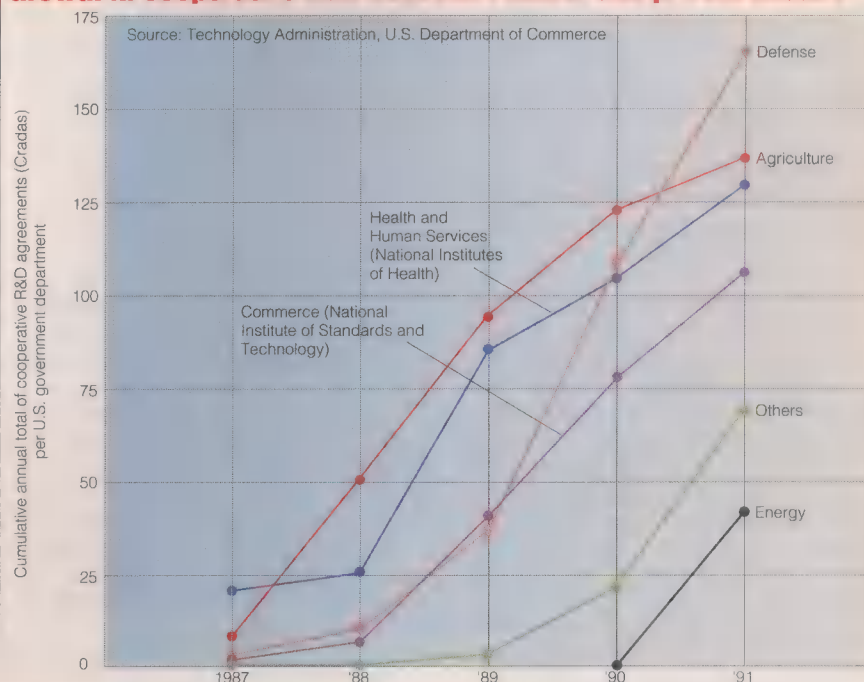
mercial products and processes.

More recently, the Federal government has taken several steps to institute an "open door" policy that features cooperation and partnership arrangements between the laboratories and small businesses, universities, and state and local governments. Another part of this phenomenon has been a conscientious effort to provide incentives for Federal scientists so that they can share in the rewards when their discoveries become marketable inventions.

To further encourage the private sector's commercialization of Federally funded R&D, the Federal Technology Transfer Act was passed in 1986. The act permits Government-owned and -operated laboratories to enter into cooperative research agreements with private companies, universities, and others. It also allows private partners to license or take title to Federal inventions in cooperative research and lets the laboratories receive royalties through these agreements (sharing 15 percent or more with employees responsible for invention). Subsequent legislation allowed Federal laboratories to withhold from disclosure certain types of information developed with private sector partners.

The Technology Administration, through its Office of Technology Policy, has taken on

Growth in cooperative R&D between Federal and private sectors



Robert M. White U.S. Department of Commerce

the role of stimulating the transfer process by sponsoring workshops that feature Federal lab research, providing guidance in establishing research agreements, and acting as ■ broker, or marketing agent, with U.S. industry. The recently announced National Technology Initiative is an example of this type of activity.

'AGILE' MANUFACTURING. In some areas the Commerce Department acts ■ an *agent for change*. Manufacturing is such a case. As a byproduct of ■ global economy and the computer age, manufacturing is changing from mass production to what is variously called lean production or agile manufacturing—a process characterized by flexibility, short product cycles, and high-quality output.

Unfortunately, studies indicate that U.S. manufacturers, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, are slow to adopt this new paradigm. To promote better manufacturing practices, the Technology Administration supports a broad range of programs from research to outreach:

■ **Manufacturing research.** To help U.S. industry achieve a paradigm shift in its manufacturing practices, research done in advanced manufacturing technologies by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is focused on two efforts. One is supplying the industry with ■ radically new way of making precisely machined parts with dimensions that can be referenced to national measurement standards maintained by NIST. The other is encouraging the modernization of U.S. manufacturing by providing the technical information necessary to develop standards for measurements, hardware, software, and data interfaces.

• **Manufacturing standards.** A national industry-driven, Government-facilitated effort called the Product Data Exchange coordinates and accelerates ■ range of standards activities related to the exchange of product data. The use of such standards will allow manufacturers to achieve an open, global, digital product data exchange environment.

■ **Quality.** The Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award is both the U.S. standard of quality achievement and a comprehensive guide to quality improvement in industry. The award program, developed and managed by NIST with the cooperation and financial support of the private sector, recognizes achievements in seven areas of quality management and performance.

■ **Outreach.** The Commerce Department's Manufacturing Technology Centers are designed to help small and medium-sized U.S. manufacturers become more competitive. Run by nonprofit organizations and based on modern automated manufacturing techniques, the centers are technology-transfer—rather than research—operations. The centers' approach breaks down the barriers these companies face in adopting new technology by providing up-to-date, practical information and expertise and support-

ing the implementation of advanced manufacturing technology.

PROMISING TECHNOLOGIES. Emerging technologies—that is, technologies that show promise based on research results but still require significant technical development before they become practical—may represent too high a risk for ■ corporate investment. A good example is flat panel display technology. While limited work on this technology has been done in the United States, Japan, which has the mechanism for minimizing such risks, has initiated over ■ dozen commercialization efforts.

Commerce's role has been to understand innovation as a system and try to make the system work as well as possible

To stimulate U.S. industry to engage in the development of such "precompetitive" technologies, the Commerce Department has established a new program—the Advanced Technology Program—that provides partial funding to either single firms or industry-led joint ventures. The first round of 11 awards was announced last year. Grants were made in such areas as improving manufacturing for electronics, machine tool control, and high-temperature superconductivity.

One of the grants that clearly illustrates the focus of this program is for the development of a holographic memory. Holography and the existence of materials that can be electrically charged by light have been around for some time. The idea of storing information in a holographic pattern in such materials was invented in the early 1960s. To convert this concept into a technology that could compete with semiconductors or magnetic-disk storage requires ■ good deal of further exploratory work.

This project—submitted by Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corp., Austin, Texas, the microelectronics and computer industry consortium—involves a remarkable degree of vertical integration: Union Carbide for the photorefractive crystals; Texas Instruments, Amoco Laser, and Eastman Kodak for the electro-optic components; Conner Peripherals for the storage system itself; and Cray Research and NCR for the integration of the storage into advanced computers. This is a high-risk project, but it could result in multi-gigabit storage systems with access times 100 to 1000 times faster than conventional storage technology.

One of the Technology Administration's most important roles is to provide the tech-

nical infrastructure upon which most of the U.S. economy rests. Central to this function is NIST, which was given a broader mandate by Congress in 1988: "to assist industry in the development of technology. . . needed to improve product quality, to modernize manufacturing processes, to ensure product reliability. . . and to facilitate the rapid commercialization . . . of products based on new scientific discoveries."

The 3000 scientists, engineers, technicians, and support personnel at NIST's laboratories in Gaithersburg, Md., and Boulder, Colo., conduct basic and applied research in the physical sciences and engineering, developing generic technology, measurement techniques, test methods, standards, and related services. The institute also offers more than 300 types of calibration tests, 1000 standard reference materials for calibrating instruments and evaluating testing methods, 24 standard reference data centers, laboratory accreditation programs, and free evaluations of energy-related inventions.

The cornerstone agency for the dissemination of technical, engineering, and business-related information generated by governments worldwide is Commerce's National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Va. It was created in 1945 to collect and declassify World War II technical data. Currently the service is the central source for Federally generated computerized data files, databases, and software. More than 1.5 million of the nearly 2 million reports in the archives are referenced in the service's on-line bibliographic database.

TO PROBE FURTHER. The Commerce Department's Office of Technology Commercialization can provide information on state and local clearinghouses that tap into government technical resources; call 202-377-8100.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Md., can be reached at 301-975-2300. Its Advanced Technology Program hotline is 301-975-2273, and information on the Product Data Exchange is available at 301-975-3986. The National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Va., can be reached at 703-487-4650.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR. Robert M. White (F) has been the Commerce Department's under secretary for technology since April 1990 and now heads the Technology Administration. He also leads the government-wide Committee on Industry and Technology of the Federal Coordinating Council on Science, Engineering, and Technology. Previously, White was vice president at Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corp., Austin, Texas, where he directed the advanced computing technology program. He was also chief technical officer of Control Data Corp. in Minneapolis, Minn., and principal scientist at Xerox Corp.'s Palo Alto Research Center. His technical specialty is magnetic recording. ♦

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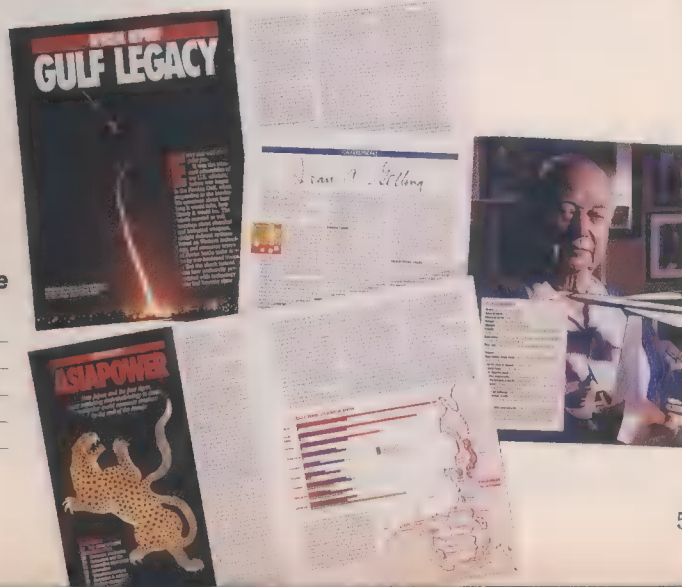
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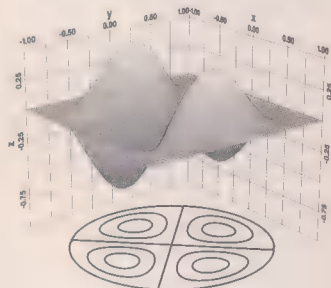
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Innovations

Flowering antennas

Antennas fringed with petal shapes may soon be adorning antenna research labs and test ranges if the research of Edward B. Joy, professor of electrical engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, takes root. Joy discovered that less energy is reflected and scattered at the edge of an antenna if that edge is bordered by petal-shaped serrations some 10 times as deep as the operating wavelength of the antenna.

Petal-fringed antennas are effective over ■ wide frequency range, can be used in the microwave or millimeter-wave regions, and cost less than rolled antenna edges or subreflectors. The feature benefits radar, compact range antennas, antennas used in earth-to-satellite and satellite-to-earth transmission, and ground-based point-to-point telecommunications.

Joy said he knew from his previous research that serrations around an antenna's



Henry Cotton

edge would reduce reflection and scattering, but he did not know which shape would work best. He and fellow investigators used computer simulations to generate and test triangles and other shapes and combinations of shapes. In one study, antennas with 32 to 128 petals were tested. Various petal lengths and widths were also examined, as well as a random petal root length, the petal length from tip to valley.

Most of the work done to date on petal serrations by Joy and his colleagues has been in compact antenna-test ranges. In a com-

pact range, a front-feeding or offset antenna transmits to ■ point-source parabolic reflector. This, in turn, generates ■ highly uniform electric field, or quiet zone, used to test the performance of electronic equipment and antennas mounted on trucks, planes, or tanks [see figure].

In computer simulations of compact range reflectors at Georgia Tech, petal serrations were found to trim about 10 dB from the energy reflected into the quiet zone. The length-to-width ratio of each petal may range from 2 to 10. The amount of energy reflected by petal configurations varies little for random or uniform widths of the petals.

The shape of superconductors to come

Superconductors in ingenious configurations discovered at Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, N.M., could some day store energy for the electric power industry or contain plasma magnetically in thermonuclear fusion research. A miniature model coil has already been built to test one of the configurations, and researchers hope to receive funding to apply their concepts on a larger scale.

To produce the magnetic fields required to store energy, a large current density is needed. This is achieved when current flows in opposite directions in equally spaced coil conductors arranged either in two concentric circles, or wound around each other as in ■ helix. These configurations confine the magnetic field to within 100 meters of the storage facility, versus the 16-km extension for older configurations.

There is a tradeoff, though. The nearness of conductors in these configurations to each other also reduces their capacity for storing energy by some 30 percent (exactly how much depends on the distance between conductors). U.S. patent 5 006 672 for various configurations was granted to Melvin L. Prueitt, Fred M. Mueller, and James L. Smith of Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, N.M., on April 9, 1991.

For plasma confinement, parallel wires running along the perimeter of a vacuum chamber are reorganized—alternate wires are moved a little toward the center of the chamber. The current in these wires is less than, and flows in the opposite direction to, the current in the outer wires. At a certain ratio of radii and a certain ratio of current, the forces on the wires become zero. At a distance, magnetic fields cancel each other.

Wires in this configuration can generate extremely strong magnetic fields of up to 100 teslas, which are ideal for plasma confinement, according to Prueitt. For this discov-

(Continued on p. 53)

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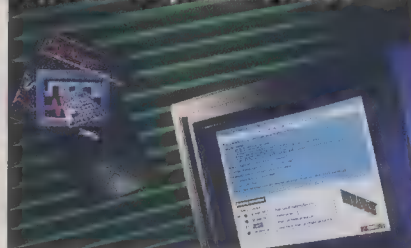
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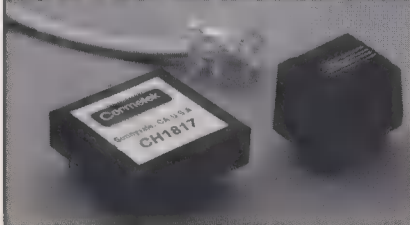
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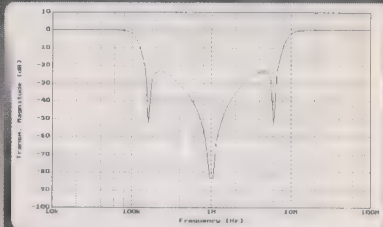
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als at government research center and industry who are at the forefront of fusion plasma physics research. It is expected that the candidate would establish and lead major research activity. Salary and appointment level will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Candidates should submit letter of application, a complete resume, and the names of five references to: Prof. Robert W. Conn, Chairman of Search Committee, Department of Mechanical, Aerospace and Nuclear Engineering, 44-139 Engineering IV, 405 Hilgard Avenue, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1597.

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The University of Cincinnati—The NASA Space Engineering Research Center and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering invite applications for new tenure-track faculty positions at the Assistant/Associate Professor levels starting January 1992. The primary areas of interest are solid state electronics with an emphasis on microelectronics-based sensors, micromechanical structures, microstructures, chemical or RIE micromachining, analog and digital electronics circuit design for smart sensing, electronic instrumentation and non-intrusive diagnostics using microsensors for space engineering. The Department offers B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. programs in Electrical and Computer Engineering. The Department has 30 full-time faculty, 160 full-time graduate students, 400 undergraduate students, 2 research centers, and 20 full-time staff members, and graduates approximately 35 M.S. and 15 Ph.D.'s per year. Externally funded research is currently at \$4.0M per year and growing. The University is supportive of the Department in providing an environment conducive to the establishment of an academic and professional career. The Space Engineering Research Center is one of nine national research centers sponsored by NASA. It currently supports multi-disciplinary research and educational programs involving

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The University of Calgary, Academic Positions, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering—The University of Calgary Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering invites applications for two full-time tenure-track academic positions at the Assistant or Associate Professor rank effective July 1, 1992. Requirements include a PhD and significant expertise in Electrical and Computer Engineering, especially in one or more of: electronics, VLSI circuits, power systems, power electronics, computer engineering. Strong computing background essential. Excellent computing facilities and specialized facilities are available to pursue teaching and research. Candidates must develop an active research program, teach at undergraduate and graduate levels, and supervise graduate students. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada. The University of Calgary has an Employment Equity Program and encourages applications from all qualified candidates, including women, aboriginal people, visible minorities and people with disabilities. The University offers a Dual Career Assistance Program for spouses. Send applications, with a curriculum vitae and the names of three references, by March 31, 1992 to: Head, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, The University of Calgary, 2500 University Drive N.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 1N4.

Faculty Position—Assistant Professor (Tenure Track), Electrical Engineering, The Division of Engineering, The University of Texas at San Antonio. The Division of Engineering at the University of Texas at San Antonio invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in Electrical Engineering. Ph.D. degree required. Successful candidates are expected to participate in both undergraduate and graduate teaching, and in research activities. Applicants in all areas of electrical engineering are invited to apply, but the following areas are of special interest: communications; computer engineering with emphasis on distributed and parallel processing and fault tolerant computing; digital signal processing; solid state devices; digital systems or microelectronics; and VLSI. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. UTSA is a comprehensive metropolitan university located on the edge of the Texas Hill Country. San Antonio combines a rich cultural heritage with a modern focus on education, research, and technology. Send resume and names, addresses, and phone numbers of four references by April 6, 1992 to: Chair, Electrical Engineering Search Committee, Division of Engineering, The University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas 78249-0665. UTSA is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

North Carolina State University. The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

has a limited number of openings for Visiting Assistant Professors and tenure-track Assistant Professors. Visiting Assistant Professors are appointed for fixed non-renewable terms of one or two years. Tenure-track Assistant Professors are appointed for a first term of four years with possibility of renewal for a second three-year term. Qualifications for Assistant Professors include a doctorate in electrical engineering, computer engineering, or closely related discipline; a commitment to excellence in research and teaching; and a demonstrated ability for scholarly work. Applications for Instructors and Lecturers will also be considered. Qualifications for Instructors and Lecturers include significant industrial or governmental R&D experience; an advanced degree in electrical engineering, computer engineering, or computer science; and a commitment to excellence in teaching. Opportunities for employment exist or may exist in a number of areas, including computer architecture, electric power systems, robotics and intelligent machines, optoelectronics, VLSI design, solid-state electronics, computer communications, and signal processing. The department offers programs leading to BS, MS, and PhD degrees in electrical and computer engineering. The department has approximately 50 full-time, tenure-track faculty members, 1200 undergraduate students, 400 graduate students, and annual research expenditures of approximately 50 full-time, tenure-track faculty members, 1200 undergraduate students, 400 graduate students, and annual research expenditures of approximately \$8,000,000. Research activities are concentrated (administratively) in the following organized research units: The Center for Communications and Signal Processing, the Computer Systems Laboratory (joint with Computer Science), the Electrical Power Research Center (joint with Nuclear Engineering), The Engineering Research Center for Advanced Electronic Materials Processing, the Solid-State Laboratories, the High Frequency Electronics Laboratory, the Power Semiconductor Research Center, and the Robotics and Intelligent Machines Laboratory. The department and organized research units enjoy support and close cooperation with industrial firms and research laboratories in the Research Triangle Park and elsewhere. Inquiries should be sent to R.K. Cavlin, III; Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Box 7911; North Carolina State University; Raleigh, NC 27695-7911. North Carolina State University is an equal-opportunity, affirmative-action employer.

University of Idaho, Department of Electrical Engineering, invites applications for a faculty position at the assistant professor level with a specialty in computer engineering, digital systems, control systems, electromagnetics, power, or analog electronics. The current vacancy is at the Idaho Falls Center for Higher Education, a branch campus in Idaho Falls, ID. Duties include teaching at the graduate and undergraduate levels, research in the specialty area, and contributing to the academic program in the department. Preliminary selection qualifications are an earned PhD in electrical/computer engineering or a closely related field, specialization in computer engineering, digital systems, control systems, electromagnetics, power, or analog electronics, and US citizenship or permanent residency. Intermediate selection qualifications include effective communication skills, teaching ability, research ability, professional compatibility with department goals, and industrial experience. The Department offers the BS, MS, M. Engr., and PhD degrees in electrical engineering and the BS, MS, and M. Engr. degrees in computer engineering. The University of Idaho has statewide responsibility for engineering education, is a land-grant university with about 9,000 students, and is located in northern Idaho approximately 10 miles from Washington State University. Research activity includes the Microelectronics Research Center (MRC), specializing in VLSI design; the MRC receives NASA support as one of nine original Space Engineering Research Centers. Idaho Falls is located in southeast Idaho in the center of renowned recreation areas. The Idaho Falls Center works closely with the Idaho Na-

tional Engineering Laboratory in its research and educational programs. Search and selection procedures will be closed when a sufficient number of qualified applicants has been identified, but not earlier than April 1, 1992. Send letter, resume, names of three references, and statement of residency status to Dr. John Law, Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83843-4199. The University of Idaho is an EO/AA employer.

The Electrical Engineering Technology Department of Purdue University announces anticipated academic-year tenure-track positions in West Lafayette, Anderson, Columbus, Kokomo, New Albany, and South Bend, Indiana, commencing August 17, 1992. Minimum requirements are: three years of recent relevant industrial experience; a strong commitment to undergraduate teaching; a master's degree in electrical engineering technology, electrical engineering, or a closely related field. Applicants must have expertise in at least two specialty areas. Candidates from industry, engineering technology programs, or strong community college technical programs are encouraged to apply. In addition to teaching, faculty will be expected to engage in curriculum development, some program coordination, student advising, take an active role on department or university committees, and to pursue scholarly activity by publishing and participating in professional society meetings. For priority consideration, applications should be submitted by April 3, 1992. However, the positions will remain open until they are filled. Send a detailed resume, the names, addresses and phone numbers of three references, and your location preference(s) to the: EET Faculty Search Committee, Electrical Engineering Technology Department, Knott Hall, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907. Purdue is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Electrical Engineering: Department of Electrical Engineering of Northern Illinois University, invites applications for tenure-track Assistant or Associate professor positions for Fall 1992 semester with demonstrated experience in several of the following specialty areas: semiconductor device fabrication, micro-machining, micro-sensor fabrication, data communication, analog communications, microwave devices, fiber-optics, electromagnetics and materials. Preference will be given to those applicants who have demonstrated significant academic experience, record of teaching and research, and scholarly publications. Earned doctorate in Electrical Engineering and U.S. citizenship or permanent U.S. residency is required. Salary, rank, and tenure status will be commensurate with qualifications and accomplishments. Applications must be received by April 1, 1992. Clearly identify the particular specialization in your letter of application. Send letter of application, resume, names of three references and samples of recent publications to Professor Alan P. Genis, Chair, Department of Electrical Engineering, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115-2854. Northern Illinois University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. We sincerely urge native Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans and women to apply. The college is strongly committed to the cultural, ethnic, and gender diversification of its faculty.

Research Assistant Professor in the Medical Imaging Research Laboratory at the University of Utah. The Department of Radiology invites applications for a nontenure-track position at the research assistant professor level to work in the Medical Imaging Research Laboratory. The applicant should have a Ph.D. in either physics, electrical engineering, biophysics, or applied mathematics. The successful candidate will be expected to participate in single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) research which includes the development of cone beam tomography both for the data sufficiency and the data insufficiency case, the improvement of iterative reconstruction algorithms which include better models of the physics of the imaging detection process, and the development of kinetic models which are able to measure in vivo cardiac and brain physiology using dynamic SPECT acquisition. An understanding of x-ray imaging, magnetic resonance imaging and other imaging tech-



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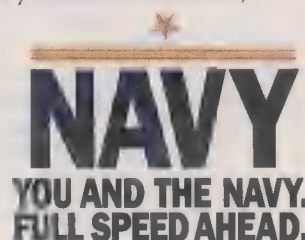
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niques required so that the candidate filling this position can give lectures and teach laboratory classes in medical imaging. The medical imaging research laboratory has three faculty members, two postdoctoral research associates, and fifteen graduate students working on research projects in x-ray imaging, x-ray computed tomography, laser mammography, single photon emission computed tomography, MR angiography, and MR spectroscopy. The laboratory has access to three-decator, two-detector, and one-detector SPECT systems. In addition, there is access to SUN work stations, an IBM supercomputer, and Stardent 750 and 1500 computers. The applicant should send a resume and three letters of recommendation to: Grant T. Gullberg, Ph.D., Department of Radiology, Medical Imaging Research Laboratory, AC215 Medical Center, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84132. Deadline date: April 1, 1992 or until suitable candidate is identified. EEO/AA Employer.

Tenure-Track Faculty Position in the Medical Imaging Research Laboratory at the University of Utah. The Department of Radiology invites applications for a tenure-track position at the associate or full professor level to work in the Medical Imaging Research Laboratory. The applicant should have a Ph.D. in either physics, electrical engineering, biophysics, or applied mathematics. The successful candidate will be expected to develop a research program in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and to teach courses in medical imaging. Of particular interest to the department is research in MRI which will lead to enhancing MR angiography, to understanding the hemodynamics of blood flow during MRI data acquisition, and to improving methods for measuring tissue perfusion. Presently, the Medical Imaging Research Laboratory has three faculty members, two postdoctoral research associates, and fifteen

graduate students from physics, electrical engineering, bioengineering, and biophysics. The laboratory has research projects in x-ray imaging, x-ray computed tomography, laser mammography, single photon emission computed tomography, MR angiography, and MR spectroscopy. The laboratory has access to large bore human MRI and small bore animal systems, SUN work stations, IBM supercomputer, and Stardent computers. The applicant should send a resume and three letters of recommendation to: Grant T. Gullberg, Ph.D., Department of Radiology, Medical Imaging Research Laboratory, AC215 Medical Center, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84132. Deadline date: April 1, 1992 or until suitable candidate is identified. EEO/AA Employer.

Electrical Engineering: Tenure track faculty position available at the Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor level in the Electrical Engineering Department, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Primary need is for applicants with specialization in the areas of Computer Engineering or Digital Systems but all specialties will be considered. Responsibilities will include both teaching and research. Applicants must possess a doctoral degree in Electrical or Computer Engineering or be scheduled to complete all degree requirements by September 1, 1992. Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, founded in 1885, has an enrollment of approximately 2,500 students and offers degrees in all the major branches of engineering and the physical sciences. The school is located in Rapid City, the second largest city in South Dakota, and the gateway to the Black Hills of western South Dakota. Applications, including a resume, a statement of teaching and research interest, and names and addresses of at least three references should be sent to: Professor Richard D. McNeil, Chairman, Elec-

trical Engineering Faculty Search Committee, Electrical Engineering Department, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, 501 East St. Joseph Street, Rapid City, SD 57701-3995. Phone (605) 394-2451. Applications are desired before April 15, 1992, but the search will remain open until the position is filled. South Dakota School of Mines and Technology is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and encourages applications from qualified women and minorities.

Research Associate: Electrical Engineering-Systems. Conduct research in VLSI design. Develop a knowledge-based system for the design of testable digital circuits. Prepare and design reports for users manual and for research publications. Req: Ph.D. in Computer or Electrical Engineering. 2 yrs. experience in VLSI Design. Specialized knowledge of ATPG, BIST, DFT and fault tolerant designs. Background in software engineering, CAD object oriented database. Knowledge and ability to use C, C++, Pascal, Lisp, Prolog, Unix, V-base, X-windows, Sun workstations, Ethernet/LAN protocol. Sal. \$923.07/wk; 40 hrs/wk. Job/Interview site: Los Angeles, CA. Send this ad and a resume to Job #LG1212, P.O. Box 9560, Sacramento, CA 95823-0560 no later than 4/1/92.

Princeton University: the department of Electrical Engineering invites applications for full time, tenure-track faculty position. The disciplines of particular interest are complex systems, specializing in areas such as robotics, manufacturing systems, networks, and stochastic or nonlinear systems; and signal processing, specializing in areas such as video and image processing. Please send a complete resume, a description of research and teaching interests, and names of three references to Professor Stuart Schwartz, Chair, Dept. of EE, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544-5263. Princeton University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Stanford University Center for Telecommunica-

AUBURN UNIVERSITY SPACE POWER INSTITUTE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW, RESEARCH ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE & JUNIOR ENGINEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE - ALL DISCIPLINES Next 18 Months

Auburn University is seeking several candidates for a variety of non-tenure track Postdoctoral Fellow, Research Assistant and Associate, and Junior Engineer positions to begin on or about March 15th, 1992. Applicants should have a BS, MS or PhD degree in one of the following areas: satellite communications, K_a band propagation, orbital debris, arc drives, space power, space environmental effects, electrochemistry / electrochemical engineering, surface science / surface chemistry, tribology / surface studies, heterogeneous catalysis / surface chemistry, diamond film deposition, solidification, crystal growth, biotechnology / biochemical engineering, energy storage devices / chemical double layer capacitors, solid state physics, high temperature materials / electronics, physical chemistry. Applicant's vitae should show experience in experimental research with knowledge of technology transfer opportunities and commercial applications. Position appointments will be for one year, but renewable, dependent upon mutual consent and availability of research funds. Salary will be based upon academic credentials and experience. This notice is valid for 18 months, and all applications received will be retained and considered for all new positions throughout this period. Applicants should send vitae with statement of specific research interests, three letters of reference, reprints, preprints to Dr. M. Frank Rose, Space Power Institute, 231 Leach Center, Auburn University, AL. 36849-5320.

Auburn University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer, and an Equal Opportunity Educational Institution. Minorities and Women are encouraged to apply

Princeton University Department of Electrical Engineering POEM/ATC MANAGER

The Department of Electrical Engineering seeks application for the position of Manager for the Photonic Opto-Electronic Material (POEM) Advanced Technology Center (ATC). The POEM ATC is an interdisciplinary research and educational activity centered in the Electrical Engineering Department. POEM is sponsored by the N.J. Commission on Science and Technology.

The Manager will be responsible for supervising the technical and office staff, coordinating educational and technology transfer programs, acting as liaison with other New Jersey higher educational institutions and industries and serving as the executive assistant to the faculty director of the Princeton POEM. Previous experience should include work in a technical environment and the individual should have demonstrated administrative ability.

Application deadline March 31, 1992. Send 2 copies of resume to: DJ, Office of Human Resources, Princeton University, Clio Hall, Princeton, NJ 08544.



Princeton University

Equal Opportunity /Affirmative Action Employer

KUWAIT UNIVERSITY
College of Engineering & Petroleum
Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of Kuwait University invites applications for permanent or visiting faculty positions starting September 1992. Duties include teaching courses at undergraduate and graduate levels. Applicants must have earned a doctorate degree in the field of Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering or related disciplines. Areas of special interest include: Optoelectronics, Photonics, Solid State Devices and Electronics, Neural Networks and Circuits, Analog and Digital VLSI. Computer Engineering areas of interest include: Software Engineering, Operating Systems, Computer Networks, Graphics, Artificial Intelligence, Languages and Database Systems.

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering is the largest department in the College of Engineering at Kuwait University with 400 students and 27 faculty members. Graduate school will be resumed September 1993. Teaching is emphasized in undergraduate and graduate laboratories with a yearly laboratory budget of \$2 million. Research is supported through the Research Management Unit at Kuwait University with \$3 million yearly budget for the College of Engineering. The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering has an extensive computing environment consisting of a network of over 100 Macs and PC's, 40 SPARC2's, three SPARC Servers 470/490k, and a VAX 6000-510. The department has access to a VAX 9000-VP and an IBM ES9000 located on the campus of the College of Engineering.

Faculty members enjoy many free benefits furnished by Kuwait University. These benefits include: medical care, private education (up to 12th grade) yearly home travel with family and free housing. Application forms and Conditions of Service may be obtained from:

Embassy of the State of Kuwait, Kuwait University Office, 3500 International Drive, N.W., Washington, DC 20008, Tel: 202-363-8055.

Completed applications with names of three referees should be returned to: Dr. Abbas Maarafi, Dean, College of Engineering and Petroleum, Kuwait University, P.O. Box 5909 Safat 13060, Kuwait, Fax: 4811772, Tel: 4811188 ext/5180

The first deadline is March 30, 1992 or the 30th of each month until positions are filled.

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The National Synchrotron Light Source Department (NSLS) has a position open for a scientist with an advanced degree and a background in experimental particle accelerator physics. Principal activities will be directed to the operation and enhancement of existing NSLS storage rings, and will include the study of beam intensity limiting effects, orbit stabilization and the development of the related hardware. Additional activity will involve the design, construction and commissioning of a compact, superconducting storage ring dedicated to X-ray lithography.

Candidates should submit a curriculum vitae and the names of three references to: Dr. S. Krinsky, National Synchrotron Light Source Department, Building 725B, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Associated Universities, Inc., Upton, L.I., NY 11973. Equal opportunity employer M/F/H/V.



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tions Professor (Research) and Executive Director. Stanford University seeks applications for a position Professor (Research) in Electrical Engineering and Executive Director of the Center for Telecommunications. Candidates must have a proven track record of research in the telecommunications field, and should have an understanding of future trends in the communications industry. A Ph.D. and prior industrial experience in this field are necessary, but an ability to work in the academic environment with multiple faculty from multiple disciplines is also required. The successful candidate will be expected to supervise the research of Ph.D. students, and will also serve as the primary interface to industrial Members of the Center. Membership recruitment and associated fund raising will be an important part of the responsibilities. This is a non-tenure-track position, with no teaching duties, and with funding supplied by the Center for Telecommunications. The Center involves about 15 faculty members from the Departments of Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering Economic Systems and approximately 10 industrial firms from around the world. A central theme of the Center is personal communications, interpreted in a broad sense. Stanford University is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and encourages applications from women and minority candidates. The deadline for receipt of applications is April 30, 1992. Applications should be sent to Prof. Leonid Kazovsky, Chairman of the Search Committee, Department of Electrical Engineering, Durand 202, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305.

Dean of Engineering Michigan Technological University. Michigan Technological University invites applications and nominations for the position of Dean of the College of Engineering. The Dean reports directly to the Provost and is expected to provide leadership in undergraduate and graduate education and research. MTU is one of the largest undergraduate engineering institutions in the country and houses growing graduate programs. The College of Engineering is the largest academic unit of the University. It has approximately 4400 undergraduate, 225 M.S., and 130 Ph.D. students and 150 faculty in the departments of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical Engineering, General Engineering, Geological Engineering, Geology and Geophysics, Mechanical Engineering, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, and Mining Engineering. Qualifications include an earned doctorate, a distinguished research and teaching record appropriate for a tenured appointment in the College, proven leadership and administrative ability, and a demonstrated commitment to affirmative action and diversity. Nominations and applications, including resume and names, addresses, and phone numbers of three references, can be sent to Dr. Martha Sloan, Chair, Dean of Engineering Search Committee, Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Michigan Technological University, 1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931. The position is open 1 September 1992. Applications will be reviewed continuously until the position is filled. Michigan Technological University is an equal opportunity educational institution/equal opportunity employer.

Electrical/Computer Faculty Positions. The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at LSU invites applications for anticipated tenure-track and visiting faculty positions at the assistant, associate and full professor levels available August 1992 in the following areas: electric energy systems, including power electronics; solid state electronics; systems, including automatic control, communications and signal processing; and computers, including microprocessors, distributed processing systems and special purpose architectures. A PhD or equivalent degree and potential for excellence in teaching and research are necessary. The positions involve teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in electrical and/or computer engineering and research in areas of individual interest. Completion of all PhD requirements is necessary before employment begins. Salary is competitive and com-

mensurate with qualifications and experience. Release time and resources are provided in order to enhance the development of a quality research program. Opportunities for summer support are available. Send resume, names of three references, a statement of teaching and research interests, and verification of employment eligibility in compliance with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 to: Alan H. Marshak, Chairman, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-5901. LSU is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Faculty Positions in Robotics—Carnegie Mellon University Robotics Ph.D. Program. Applications are invited for tenure-track faculty positions in the Robotics Ph.D. Program at Carnegie Mellon University. Appointees are expected to play major roles in education and research in the program. Appointments are expected to be at the assistant professor level in the Robotics Ph.D. Program, although joint appointments with other departments or non-tenure-track research appointments could also be considered. Applicants must have a Ph.D. in a related discipline and have demonstrated competence in one or more areas of robotics research, as well as potential for excellent teaching. Outstanding candidates in all areas of robotics are invited, including, but not limited to, mechanisms, manipulation, sensors, control, locomotion, vision, design, planning, knowledge-based systems, simulation, graphics, micro-electronics, parallel computing, manufacturing, and management. Applicants should send their applications with curriculum vitae and names of at least four references to: Chair, Faculty Search Committee, The Robotics Institute, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890, Attn: Nancy Serviou. Carnegie Mellon is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.

Drexel University. The Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering expects to have tenure-track and visiting faculty positions for the academic year 1992-1993. At the present time we are seeking individuals with strong interest in engineering education and academic research, whose areas of specialization are in the general area of communications, telecommunications, mobile communications, and networking. Applicants must have a Ph.D. The ECE Department has active groups in the areas of System Theory, Computer Engineering, Power Systems and Electrophysics. Send Curriculum Vitae, including the names of five references, to: Dr. Bruce A. Eisenstein, Head, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA 19104. Immigration status of non-US citizens should be stated. Drexel University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, and welcomes applications from women and minorities.

The George Washington University Visiting Professorships Research Faculty/Research Staff. Visiting Professorships, Research Faculty, and Research Staff Positions, at junior and senior levels, are available in the School of Engineering and Applied Science. The George Washington University starting Fall Semester 1992. The School of Engineering and Applied Science is organized into four academic departments: The Department of Civil, Mechanical and Environmental Engineering; the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; the Department of Engineering Management; and the Department of Operations Research. Candidates are especially sought to teach and/or conduct research in the following areas: Artificial Intelligence; Communications; Computer Graphics; Computer-Integrated Design and Manufacturing; Computer Science; Computer Security; Data Networks; Decision Support Systems; Energy Management; Engineering Management; Information Technology Management; Integer and Network Programming; Manufacturing/Production Management; Mathematical Optimization; Mechanical Engineering Design; Operations Research; Project and Program Management and Total Quality Management; Reliability; Simulation; Software Engineering; Stochastic

Processes; Structural Engineering; Systems Engineering; Technology Assessment and Transfer; and User-Computer Interface. Appointments are for up to one-year periods. Applications will be reviewed beginning February 1 and will be accepted until the positions are filled. Applicants should send vita, including complete publication list, and three references to: Visiting Engineers Scholars Program or Research Faculty and Staff Program, School of Engineering and Applied Science, The George Washington University, Washington, DC 20052. The George Washington University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer.

University of Hawaii at Manoa, Department of Electrical Engineering, invites applicants for tenure-track associate professor or assistant professor positions with specialization in either of the following areas: (1) Computers: Advancement of knowledge and state of the art in high performance computing systems, system software or parallel and distributed algorithms. (2) Electrophysics: Microwave engineering and VLSI. Duties: Teach EE undergraduate and graduate courses, serve on university and department committees, conduct research and scholarly activities, and perform related tasks as assigned. Minimum Qualifications: Associate Professor: Ph.D. degree or completion of all requirements for a doctorate in electrical engineering, computer science, and/or equivalent; minimum of four years of full-time college or university teaching at the rank of assistant professor or equivalent, with evidence of increasing professional maturity; demonstrated scholarly achievement in comparison with peers active in the same field; demonstrated ability to plan and organize assigned activities, including the supervision of work of assistants when appropriate; ability to pursue and supervise research; strong commitment to both undergraduate and graduate teaching. Assistant Professor: Ph.D. degree or completion of all requirements for a doctorate in electrical engineering, computer science, and/or equivalent; demonstrated ability to teach; demonstrated scholarly achievement; ability to pursue and supervise research; strong commitment to both undergraduate and graduate teaching. Minimum Annual Salary: Associate Professor: \$65,568; Assistant Professor: \$53,892. Send resume and three references by April 30, 1992 to: Professor Shu Lin, Chairman, Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Hawaii at Manoa, 2540 Dole Street, Holmes Hall 483, Honolulu, HI 96822. An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Electrical Engineering: Indiana-Purdue University at Fort Wayne invites applications for one tenure-track assistant professor. Requirements are a B.S. and Ph.D. in electrical engineering with expertise in control, digital systems, computer engineering, and/or electronics or in closely related areas. Teaching experience preferred. Duties include teaching, applied research and service to university and professional societies. Send letter of application and resume with names of three references to Muhammad H. Rashid, Chair of Engineering, IPFW, 2101 Coliseum Boulevard East, Fort Wayne, IN 46805-1499. The closing date is March 27, 1992 or until the position is filled. AA/EOE.

University of California, Irvine. Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The Department invites applications from outstanding candidates for several tenure track and tenured faculty positions: Systems and Signal Processing. The department seeks candidates at the level of Assistant or Associate Professor with experience in digital signal processing, adaptive filtering, neural computing, machine vision, spectral analysis, controls, robotics or intelligent systems. It is expected that the candidates will interact with faculty in the areas of integrated electronic circuits, VLSI system design, solid state devices, and parallel processing. Computer Engineering: Senior candidates will be given higher priorities. It is expected that the candidates will have experience in the areas of highly parallel computer systems, distributed computer systems, ultra-reliable real-time computer systems and high-level computer design automation. Senior candidates will be expected to take a leadership role in the development of the Computer Engineering Program. Photonics/Electronics Materials and

Related Technologies: The senior candidate for this position is expected to have extensive background and expertise in areas including, but not limited to: a) materials, including III-V and II-VI compound semiconductors, magnetic and polymeric materials, for high-speed photonics; b) processing, fabrication, and characterization of photonic/electronic materials and devices; and c) integrated photonic/electronic devices, interconnections, and packaging. The prospective candidate will be expected to collaborate closely with other faculty members within the Optical and Solid State Device group in order to extend and enhance research programs aimed at the effective vertical integration of materials, devices, and systems. Departmental facilities include ■ small microfabrication laboratory housing lithographic and processing instrumentation, ■ molecular beam epitaxy facility, and advanced electronic and photonic device research laboratories. **Electronic Circuits:** Candidates at the level of Assistant or Associate Professor should have ■ thorough knowledge of the principles of operation, analysis, and design of analog and digital electronic circuits. In addition, the applicant should possess ■ strong background in the theory and practice of semi-conductor electronics and be familiar with modern methods for computer-aided design and engineering of integrated electronic systems. The candidate will be expected to take a leading role in the development of departmental research associated with the creation of integrated circuit modules to perform analog and digital functions which will complement existing departmental strength in the ■■■ of digital systems. The successful candidate must have an exceptional record of research including ■ significant publication record in archival research journals. In addition, senior candidates must have a record for obtaining substantial extramural research funding and the inclination to assist younger faculty in their professional development. Please send your resume and names of four references to: Leonard A. Ferrari, Chair, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of California, Irvine, CA 92717. The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering welcomes applications from women and minority candidates. UCI is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Center for Laser Science and Engineering. The University of Iowa will expand its activities in the interdisciplinary field of Laser Science and Engineering by making additional tenure-track faculty appointments over the next few years in the general areas of photonics and quantum electronics. These appointments may be made in any existing department or program. Rank and salary will be commensurate with the qualifications and experience of the candidate. Preferred areas of interest include (but ■■■ not limited to) development of ultrafast lasers; strong-field science and applications; ultrafast investigations of processes, materials and devices; growth, fabrication, and characterization of traditional and non-traditional photonic materials and devices; and photonic engineering. The successful applicant will be expected to have the potential for establishing an outstanding research program at the University of Iowa and an interest in teaching undergraduate and graduate students. Collaboration with current programs and present faculty is encouraged. Applications will be reviewed starting March 15, 1992, but applications will be accepted until all positions ■■■ filled. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Applicants should send a complete vitae and the names of three references to: Faculty Screening Committee, Center for Laser Science and Engineering, 124 AMRF, Oakdale Campus, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242 (319) 335-4581. The University of Iowa is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.

University of Virginia, Chair, Department of Systems Engineering. Applications or nominations are invited for the Chair of the Department of Systems Engineering at the University of Virginia. Candidates should have a distinguished record of research, a commitment to teaching, strong administrative and leadership skills, and experience in systems or industrial engineering. Candidates should also be eligible for appointment at the rank of professor; an endowed chair appointment is possible for qualified can-

didates. The department offers B.S., M.E., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in Systems Engineering. The faculty has strong research programs in decision theory, intelligent systems, stochastic modeling, data communications, scheduling systems, and risk management. The new Chair must be capable of expanding upon this excellent foundation in both education and research. Applications should contain ■ current vita and the names, addresses and phone number of four references. The University of Virginia is ■ Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer and applications are encouraged from minority and female candidates. Applications or nominations will be accepted until the position is filled and should be sent to: Professor James M. Ortega, Chair, Search Committee, Department of Computer Science, University of Virginia, Thornton Hall, Charlottesville, VA 22903-2442.

Ecole Polytechnique De Montreal, Postdoctoral Fellows. "Le Groupe de recherches appliquees en micro-ondes et en electronique spatiale" at Ecole Polytechnique's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering has opportunities for two new Ph.D. graduates in Non Linear Characterization/Modeling of Microwave Electron Devices and in MMIC Circuits Design. Initial appointment for one year but may be renewed for up to two more years. The language of work at Ecole Polytechnique is French. Salary and conditions: Remuneration and benefits will be determined in accordance with current standards at Ecole Polytechnique. Date of commencement: September 1, 1992. Applications, accompanied by ■ curriculum vitae and references, and specifying the position applied for, should be sent to the following address (arriving no later than July 31, 1992): Prof. Fadel M. Ghannouchi, Dept of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Ecole Polytechnique, C.P. 6079, Succ. A, Montreal (Quebec) Canada, H3C 3A7/ Tel: (514) 340-4091, fax (514) 340-3219. In accordance with Canadian and Quebec immigration requirements, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada.

da. Ecole Polytechnique is an equal opportunity employer.

Faculty Position in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Portland State University. The Department of Electrical Engineering is seeking to fill tenure-track faculty positions. An earned doctorate and demonstrated teaching and research expertise are required. Applicants for senior positions should have ■ proven record of scholarly work and show excellence in both teaching and research. The areas of particular interest involve all aspects of Integrated Circuit Design, Semiconductor Devices, Solid-State Electronics, Computer Engineering, and Power Systems, but concomitant teaching and research activities ■■■ desirable in other electrical engineering disciplines. Advanced Electrical Engineering research laboratories in the University's Portland Center for Advanced Technology include a VLSI design center, and laboratories for integrated circuit testing, power electronics, computer vision and graphics, and lasers. Faculty members have access to a departmental network of Sparc and Sun workstations, a Sequent multiprocessor machine, as well as university IBM and Sequent computers. Responsibilities include undergraduate and graduate teaching, development of sponsored research, and interaction with local industry. Portland State University is one of the three major universities in the Oregon State System of Higher Education and ■ member of the Oregon Joint Graduate Schools of Engineering. It is located in Portland, Oregon, with easy access to the well-known recreational opportunities of Oregon's mountains, rivers, and coast. The Department of Electrical Engineering offers B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in electrical and computer engineering. The Department has 12 full-time faculty and over 300 students admitted to its upper division and graduate programs, with more than 100 M.S. and Ph.D. students. Portland has a rapidly-growing computer and electronics industry including Tektronix, Intel, Hewlett-Packard, Fujitsu, Analog, NCUBE, Electro-Scientific Industries, Sequent

Create The Next Generation of Digital Wireless Communications Technology

The revolution is happening now at Motorola's Land Mobile Products Sector. This is your opportunity to become a key member of a first class team that will define requirements, architect and design the next generation of digital wireless communications systems. Utilizing advanced digital technology, this system will integrate dispatch land-mobile communications, paging, telephony and data services, from ■ singular subscriber unit. All levels of R&D positions are now available for Telecommunications engineering experts in the following areas:

RF BASE STATION CONTROL SYSTEMS ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT

High level design definition and development for the base station control system (both call processing and operations and maintenance). Requires a strong background in system and software design for wireless communications systems. BSEE or equivalent plus at least 4-6 years experience required.

NETWORK MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT

Define, architect and develop a state-of-the-art wireless network management system. Requires a strong background in the design of Operations & Management Networks, with ■ working knowledge of the network management aspects of ISO reference model. BSEE or equivalent plus at least 4-6 years experience required.

If you would like to be ■ major contributor to this new and exciting development team with the world leader of wireless communications, Motorola would like to hear from you. Send your resume, in confidence, to: **Manager of Professional Recruiting, Dept. #9202, MOTOROLA INC., Land Mobile Products Sector, 1301 E. Algonquin Road, Schaumburg, IL 60196.** An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.



MOTOROLA

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CLASSIFIED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Computer Systems, Metheus, Mentor Graphics, Lattice and many others, which permits close industry-university interaction. Rank and salary are commensurate with qualifications and experience. Send an application, including a resume listing the names of three references to: Dr. Rolf Schaumann, Chair, Department of Electrical Engineering, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon 97207-0751. Phone: (503) 725-3806. Applications will be reviewed starting April 1, 1992 or until the positions are filled. Non-U.S. residents must state their visa status. Portland State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Biomedical Engineering Faculty Positions. Boston University College of Engineering, Department of Biomedical Engineering, anticipates an opening for two tenure-track faculty positions at the assistant, associate, or full professor level effective September 1992. Cardiopulmonary Mechanics seeking outstanding candidates with research interest in cardiopulmonary mechanics to join our existing group in respiratory mechanics. This person will be expected to develop and teach courses in the bioengineering aspects of the cardiovascular system and to conduct an active research program. Requires Ph.D. in engineering or physiology with undergraduate training in engineering. Biomedical Engineering Faculty seeking outstanding candidates with research interests in computational vision, fields/tissue interactions, human/machine interfacing, or biomechanics (electromyography/functional electrical stimulation) to join existing groups. Requires Ph.D. in engineering. Eligible candidates should submit curriculum vitae with names and addresses of at least three references to: Faculty Search Committee, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Boston University, College of Engineering, 44 Cummings St., Boston, MA 02215. Applications will be accepted through June 1992 or until po-

sitions are filled. An equal opportunity, affirmative action employer.

Tenure track Associate/Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering (BME) at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. WPI offers MS and Ph.D. degrees in BME. Close cooperation exists with the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS), Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, local hospitals, and the Massachusetts Biotechnology Research Park. The BME Department also operates a research Nuclear Magnetic Resonance imaging and spectroscopy laboratory in collaboration with the Radiology Dept. at UMMS. Ph.D. in BME, physical science or a related discipline required. Preferred areas of specialization are: medical imaging, biomedical signal processing and application of optics to biomedicine, but all specialties will be given consideration. Applicants should be able to teach a physiological systems course/laboratory. Applicants should be interested in developing a strong research program and be committed to quality teaching. WPI is located near the heart of the high technology focus of New England, yet offers opportunities for urban, suburban, or rural lifestyles. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Send resume and names of three (3) or more references to Dr. Robert A. Peura, Chairman, BME Dept., Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609. Tel: (508) 831-5447/Fax: (508) 831-5483. WPI is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) is seeking candidates for tenure track positions in systems engineering and analysis to support interdisciplinary instruction and research covering a broad range of engineering, analysis, and operations fields. NPS has formal Master's degree programs in anti-submarine warfare, command, control and communications, electronic warfare, space systems operations and space systems engineering. The student body

comprises U.S. and international officers of the military services and federal civilians. Positions are at the senior Associate Professor and Professor levels. Successful candidates will have made significant contributions in an interdisciplinary field, including research publications. Qualifications include a doctorate and a serious interest in teaching at the graduate level while pursuing relevant applied research. Salaries and benefits are competitive. The Naval Postgraduate School is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Please send a resume including references to Chairman, Search Committee, Academic Groups (Code CC), Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA 93943.

Government/Industry Positions Open

Development Staff Member: Develop communications and programming interface specifications for systems and network management in the area of performance management. Duties include research and validation of customer requirements in the development of new and novel algorithms for measurement, architectural design for OSI compliant network management, decision and control, analysis of applicable international standards, use of object oriented techniques, and representing the company to standards organizations. As a leadership position, this will also require project planning and management. 40 hrs./wk., \$60,007/yr. Must have Ph.D. in electrical engineering, and one yr. exp. on the job or one yr. exp. pre or post doctoral research assistant. The one yr. related exp. must include research and development in communication networking, functional analysis, decision theory, and performance analysis as well as experience in algorithm design in multi-domain environments, flow deviation algorithm, and linear programming technique. Please send resume or letter to: Job Service, 516 North Mangum Street, Durham, NC 27701, Attn.: J.O. #3011204, DOT Code: 003.061.010 or your nearest Job Service Center.

(Continued on p. 54)

TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT CONSULTING

Arthur D. Little's Technology Resource Center, located in Washington, D.C., is in its ninth year of technology research and planning for its client, the United States Postal Service. We seek outstanding candidates in the following fields:

MAIL PROCESSING SYSTEMS

Pattern Recognition

Responsibilities include defining, managing, directing and evaluating automated address reading algorithms research and real-time implementation. These positions require expertise in several or all of the following areas: document analysis, pattern recognition, character and word recognition (machine-printed and handwritten), and contextual analysis algorithm development; and real-time implementation and architectural design for document analysis or pattern recognition systems. An M.S. or Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Computer Science, or other closely related field, excellent oral, written, and organizational skills, and 5 or more years of R&D experience are required. Management and supervisory experience are highly desirable, but not required. Dept. 125

Electro-Mechanical Systems Engineering

Responsibilities include coordinating requirements and developing activities for a special purpose mail handling system. Extensive experience with development of hardware and software control processes and device interfaces related to high-speed paper handling systems such as check sorters, envelope inserters, etc. is required as well as a demonstrated success in dealing with end users and suppliers of custom components and subsystems. A.B.S. in Electrical Engineering, excellent verbal, written and organizational skills, and 5 or more years of R&D and project management experience are desired. Dept. 126

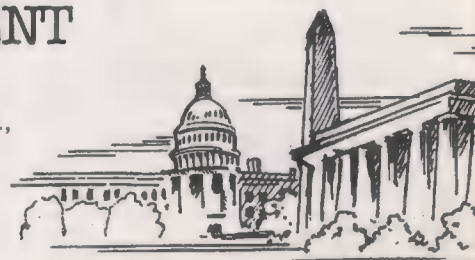
Data Structures

Responsibilities include defining, managing, directing and evaluating research and real-time implementation of large-scale and complex data storage and retrieval systems. This position requires experience in several or all of the following areas: data structures and data organization; data compression, storage, and retrieval involving inexact matching; structured analysis and design; large-scale scientific data analysis. An M.S. in Computer Science or other closely related fields, broad exposure to hardware and software, excellent oral, written and organizational skills and 8 or more years of relevant experience are also required. Some project management experience is desirable. Dept. 127

Arthur D. Little's Technology Resource Center is providing long-term advanced technology development support for the U.S. Postal Service. This includes support of a contract research program to improve the efficiency of all postal operations. These high-visibility positions offer opportunities for direct client contact, participation in high-level planning and work in a team-oriented, multidisciplinary research environment.

If you are interested in exploring employment opportunities with us, send a resume to the appropriate department number at Arthur D. Little, 20 Acorn Park, Cambridge, MA 02140. We are an equal opportunity employer, M/F.

Arthur D Little



Innovations

(Continued from p. 52)

ery, U.S. patent 4 0992 696 was granted to Prueitt and colleagues on Feb. 12, 1991.

The forces generated by magnetic fields in the wires sometimes rip apart wire conductors using traditional designs, said Prueitt. For example, two wires 10 cm apart and carrying 1 MA each in the same direction, exert a force on each other of 205 metric tons per meter of length. The patented configurations reduce these local forces to zero.

Faster, sharper micromachining

Micromachining porous silicon makes for consistent production of surface and buried insulators, conductors, and the sacrificial layers used in fabricating parts for miniature sensors, motors, and accelerometers. A research team at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, N.M., developed the process.

In comparison with conventional chemical machining, the etch rate is 10 times as fast, and the finish obtained is highly reflective rather than matte. The mirror finish is superior because it indicates the depth of the porous silicon is uniform, said Terry R. Guilinger, member of the Sandia team.

Porous silicon micromachining is a two-step process. First, the electrolysis of a silicon wafer in aqueous hydrofluoric acid produces a very thin surface layer of porous silicon. Since the etching rate is directly proportional to the current passed, the depth of porous silicon formation can be readily regulated.

Next, the porous silicon is selectively etched with hydroxide solutions at room temperature. Alternatively, it may be oxidized to form silicon dioxide, and then etched with hydrofluoric acid. Because the pore depths are so uniform, the resultant etch finish is highly reflective and mirror-like.

Porous silicon microprocessing, because of its pronounced doping selectivity, may be used to form supported structures similar to those fabricated using polysilicon films, eliminating the need for poly's high-temperature processing. Being monocrystalline, the structures may be stress-free.

Automation of the new micromachining technique may be easier, too, because process control should be improved by the more accurate and reproducible removal of silicon. Department of Energy patent 4 995 954 has been issued to Terry R. Guilinger, Michael J. Kelly, Samuel B. Martin Jr., Joel O. Stevenson, and Sylvia S. Tsao for this process.

Coordinator: Dana Norvila

Consultants: Ralph H. Baer, Jacob Rabinow

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN COMPUTER SYSTEMS ENGINEERING (TENURABLE)

QUT is one of Australia's newest and largest universities operating on five campuses with more than 22 000 students. The School of Electrical and Electronic Systems Engineering is a teaching, research and consulting unit which offers courses to the level of PhD. The School is active in research and development in most fields of electrical and electronic engineering, but has a heavy concentration in signal processing.

This position covers the fields of super-computing, multi-processor research, artificial neural networks and engineering applications using these techniques. The appointee will be responsible for course coordination of the double degree program (BE (Electronics)/B-AppSc (Computing)) as well as lecturing in the nominated field and postgraduate supervision. Women are under-represented at QUT at this level and therefore suitably qualified women are encouraged to apply.

QUALIFICATIONS/SKILLS: Applicants should meet the University criteria for appointment as an Associate Professor and should have a higher degree preferably at doctoral level. The appointee should be an outstanding scholar with a high reputation in the relevant profession. Experience at a senior level in industry and/or education is required. The appointee will provide academic and entrepreneurial leader-

ship in the areas of teaching, research and liaison with outside bodies (government, industry and other universities) and with QUT's own marketing and research units.

CONDITIONS: Permanent appointment is available at the level of Associate Professor (\$AUS64 575 per annum). Conditions include subsidised superannuation, relocation assistance, professional experience leave and study assistance. Opportunities exist for paid consulting work.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Selection criteria for the position and information on the University is available from QUT's Personnel Department, telephone (07) 864 3745, facsimile 61 7 864 3996 or email k.fox @ qut.edu.au. For further information on the position contact Professor Miles Moody, Head, School of Electrical and Electronic Systems Engineering telephone 61 7 864 2178 or facsimile 61 7 864 1516.

APPLICATIONS: Applications should quote 79/92 and include evidence of academic qualifications, experience and teaching evaluations plus the names, addresses, telephone and facsimile numbers of five professional referees. Applications should address the selection criteria and reach the Personnel Director QUT Locked Bag No 2 Red Hill 4059 Queensland Australia by 24 April 1992. Smoking is not permitted in QUT buildings.

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Queensland University of Technology

Engineering Professionals

ARCO Power Technologies, Inc. is seeking to expand its technical staff. Current opportunities exist for Engineers and/or Applied Physicists with expertise and hands on experience in one or more of the following disciplines:

- HF Transmitter Technology
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- Systems Engineering and Analysis
- Electromagnetics
- System Software Development

Innovative applicants are being sought with strong analytic skills and practical experience, capable of integrating multiple disciplines into the conceptualization, analysis and development of complex systems. A PhD or a MS with 3+ years of relevant experience is expected. Salaries are highly competitive and a comprehensive benefits package is provided.

The exceptional working environment is located in downtown Washington, DC overlooking Rock Creek Park and Georgetown.

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PENN

University of Pennsylvania
Department of Electrical Engineering
School of Engineering and Applied Science

An equal opportunity/affirmative action institution

Circle No. 18

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Academic Positions Open

University of Hartford, College of Engineering, Department of Electrical Engineering, Faculty Position. The University of Hartford invites applications and nominations for an anticipated tenure track faculty position in the Electrical Engineering Department. Established in 1957, the University of Hartford encompasses nine schools and colleges offering a wide range of undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The College of Engineering offers ABET accredited day and evening undergraduate programs in Electrical, Mechanical and Civil Engineering, enrolling 525 undergraduate students on a full and part-time basis. The College began a Master of Engineering degree program in the Fall 1991. Laboratories and facilities on a spacious and modern 300 acre campus in West Hartford, Connecticut offer a full range of testing, simulation and analytical instrumentation and equipment. The College of Engineering also operates an Engineering Applications Center, with the opportunity for faculty to participate in research and development with local industry. Faculty are also encouraged to teach in the University's nationally recognized interdisciplinary general education curriculum. The full-time faculty position is open in the Electrical Engineering Department at the Assistant Professor level. Criteria for appointment to this position include: —Doctorate in electrical engineering. —Strong interest in teaching at the undergraduate and graduate level. —Strong scholarly activities involving research and/or industrial consulting. Primary background desired for this position are: Communications & Digital Signal processing but applicants with background in Electrical Machinery will also be considered. Applications/Nominations should include a curriculum vitae, a letter of interest, and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of at least three professional references. Applications should be sent to: Chair, Faculty Search Committee, Electrical Engineering Department, University of Hartford College of Engineering, West Hartford, CT 06117. The University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and specifically invites and encourages applications from women, minorities and members of underrepresented groups.

The University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. School of Electrical Engineering. Lecturer (Fixed Term Appointment) in the Department of Communications (Ref. 031). The Department of Communications is one of the four departments within the School of Electrical Engineering. Specialization for undergraduate students commences at the second half of their third year in the four year BE course. The Department also offers graduate degrees in Master of Engineering Science, Master of Engineering and Doctor of Philosophy. The research and consulting activities of the Department cover communications networks; mobile and digital communications; microwave and antenna systems; optical fibre and electro-optics technology; and signal processing including speech processing. The optical communications research group in the Department is well known and has excellent research facilities including optical fibre manufacturing facilities, numerous lasers, and optical waveguide manufacturing equipment for optoelectronic research. We are seeking applicants with a relevant PhD degree and expertise in fibre optics or electro-optics. In addition to research activities, the successful applicants are expected to teach undergraduate and postgraduate subjects within the School. The appointment is for a fixed term of two and a half years. Membership of a University approved superannuation scheme is compulsory for new appointees. Salary: Level B Academic: A\$39,463—A\$48,688 per annum. Commencing salary according to qualifications and experience. Further information from the Head of the Department, Associate Professor T B Vu on International 61 2 697-4006. Applications close 15 May 1992. Please submit written application, Quoting Reference Number, and include business and private telephone numbers, together

with the names, addresses (and preferably facsimile numbers) of at least two referees, curriculum vitae and transcript of academic record to: The Recruitment Officer, Staff Office, PO Box 1, Kensington, NSW 2033, Australia. People from targeted EEO groups are encouraged to apply.

The Australian National University Research School of Physical Sciences and Engineering, Department of Electronic Materials Engineering Professor (Academic Level E), Senior Fellow (Academic Level D)/Fellow (Academic Level C). Applications are invited for appointment to a tenurable research position at academic level C, D, or E in the Department of Electronic Materials Engineering (Head: Professor J.S. Williams), Research School of Physical Sciences and Engineering. The department's semiconductor research program is concerned with the fabrication, processing and characterization of semiconductor structures. It includes: epitaxial growth of III-V semiconductor structures by MOCVD; ion-beam processing and characterization, including secondary ion mass spectrometry; and the use of a variety of other electrical, optical, and microstructural characterization techniques. Applicants should have a strong background in processing and characterization of semiconductors, especially in areas of relevance to the department's research. Preference will be given to candidates with expertise in electronic/optoelectronic device fabrication. Enquiries may be made to Professor Williams, Telephone (616) 249-0020. Closing date: 1 May 1992 Ref: PSE 22.1.1. Salary: Professor; A\$73,800 p.a.; Senior Fellow; A\$56,375 - A\$64,575 p.a.; Fellow; A\$44,075—A\$56,375 p.a. Appointment: Professor, to retiring age 65, Fellow/Senior Fellow, tenurable. Applications should be submitted in duplicate to the Registrar, The Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia, quoting reference number and including curriculum vitae, list of publications and names of at least three referees. The University reserves the right not to make an appointment or to appoint by invitation at any time. Further information is available from the Registrar. The University is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ) invites applications for a Faculty Position in Control Systems. The new professor has to contribute to research and teaching in the area of control systems, especially the underlying system theoretical concepts and their applications. Candidates should have experience in research and supervision of research projects in the above area. Teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels as well as cooperation with other colleagues in the Automatic Control Laboratory and the Department of Electrical Engineering are expected. Cooperation with national and international institutions and with the industry is also essential. Please apply with a curriculum vitae, a short description of research interests and a list of publications, by April 15, 1992, to the President of ETHZ, Prof. Dr. J. Nuesch, ETH Zentrum, CH-8092 Zurich. In its effort to increase the number of women in academic top positions, the ETHZ specifically invites applications from women.

Applications are invited for the appointment to the post of Professors, Associate Professors, and Assistant Professors for the academic year 1992/1993. The department would welcome well qualified Ph.D. holders in the fields of Computer Engineering (with emphasis on Robotics and Automation, Computer Control, Data Communications, Computer Vision, Neural Computers) to support both teaching and supervision of post graduate theses research. The successful applicants for professorship will be expected to provide leadership and fostering excellence in research, professional activities and policy development in the Dept. of Computer Engineering. Application together with curriculum vitae, list of publications and names of at least three references should be mailed to: Dean, College of Computer & Information Sciences, King Saud University, PO Box 51178, Riyadh 11543, Saudi Arabia. The deadline for receiving application is Mar. 31, 1992.

Government/Industry Positions Open

Digital Video Engineer: Coordinate engineering projects for implementation of Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG) standards for still pictures, the International Consultative Committee for Telephone and Telegraph (CCITT), and Moving Pictures Experts' Group (MPEG) standards for full motion video; create encoder and decoder designs; design metrics for picture quality control, as well as setup and operation of a state-of-the-art laboratory for video signal processing, involving integration of hardware from several vendors; participate in the process of acquisition, storage, processing and display of video signals in several formats; develop proprietary software tools for interactive multimedia, involving use of 'C' programs, DSP code and object-oriented programming of UNIX workstations and personal computers; participate in the development of the Programmer's Interface Kernel, a comprehensive software interface with imaging applications, involving digital image processing techniques, such as image enhancement, restoration, digital filtering, Fast Fourier Transforms, feature extraction, and computer graphics. Applicants should possess Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering. Ph.D.-level coursework must include electrical engineering. Requirements in related position must include one (1) course in each of the following subjects: 1) Image Reconstruction; 2) Advanced Digital Signal Processing; 3) Detection and Estimation. Ph.D.-level research must include: Quantitative analysis of superresolution algorithms for spatial spectrum estimation and image processing; development of transient signal detection algorithms. 40 hrs/wk.; 9:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.; \$46,800.00/year. Must have proof of legal authority to work permanently in the U.S. if offered employment. Send resumes to Illinois Department of Employment Security, 401 South State Street, 3 South, Chicago, Illinois, 60605. Attn.: E. Reed. Reference # V-IL 4635-I. No Calls. An Employer Paid Ad. Two (2) copies of your resume required.

Development Staff Member: Design and develop a networked distributed system which interconnects PC's, PC RT's, RS/6000's, AS/400's and IBM mainframes in a heterogeneous environment. Design and implement user interface and network interface for the AS/400 machines to access and communicate with the system stated above. Utilize IBM PC RT, RS/6000 and AS/400 along with UNIX and OS/400 software tools. 40 hrs/wk., \$57,000/yr. Must have Ph.D. in Computer Science and one yr. exp. on the job or one yr. exp. as a pre or post doctoral research/teaching assistant. The one yr. related exp. must include research and development in distributed multiprocessor systems and multicomputer network interconnection topologies; UNIX operating system; & related hardware & software development tools. Must be a U.S. Citizen or authorized for permanent employment in the United States. Send cover letter and resume to: S. Springmeyer #2-13, MDJT, 390 North Robert Street, Rm. 124, St. Paul, MN 55101.

Project Engineer (Electrical); 40 hrs/wk.; 7:30 am-4:00 pm; \$18.19/hr. Job requires: Master's degree w/major field of study Electrical Engineering. Job also reqs.: 1) Grad. level research in control applications as evidenced by Master's thesis or 1 professional publication; 2) 1 grad. crse. in control; 3) 1 grad. crse. in control of step motors; & 4) 2 grad. crses. in computational methods. Job duties: Design, develop, test, troubleshoot, & evaluate electronic controls for electrical power generation equipment & special applications. Design, develop, & evaluate computer software for various applications & customer requirements. Qualified applicants should send two resumes to: Illinois Department of Employment Security, 406 Elm St., Peoria, IL 61605. Attn: Jim Smithers. Ref. No. 4599-B. An Employer Paid Ad.

Communications Systems Engineer, Sr. Min. PH.D. (Communication System/Theory) Electrical and Electronics Engineering plus one year experience. Analysis, computer simulations & design of advanced communication systems. Knowledge of C/MATLAB/FORTRAN; specif-

READER GUIDE TO PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

ICASSP-92

IEEE 1992 International Conference on ACOUSTICS, SPEECH, and SIGNAL PROCESSING
San Francisco Marriott • San Francisco, California, USA

TECHNICAL PROGRAM

Sponsored by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' Signal Processing Society, ICASSP-92 is the 17th in a series of international conferences presenting work in experimental and theoretical signal processing, speech, and acoustics. Major topic areas include: audio and electroacoustics, underwater acoustics signal processing, speech processing, digital signal processing, spectrum estimation and modeling, multidimensional signal processing, very large-scale integration (VLSI) for signal processing, and emerging technologies (such as neural networks, symbolic methods, and artificial intelligence).

TUTORIALS

In addition to technical presentations, half-day tutorials by experts will be offered on March 22: Implementation and Synthesis of VLSI Signal Processing Systems, Introduction to Adaptive Digital Filtering, Articulatory Speech Analysis/Synthesis, and Image Sequence Processing.

EXHIBITS

Leading vendors of hardware and software for signal processing and publishers of signal-processing books and periodicals will be showing their wares at ICASSP-92.

REGISTRATION

Advance registration (before March 13, 1992) is \$375 for IEEE members and \$455 for nonmembers.

Reduced registration rates are available for those not wishing to attend the conference banquet and for students. Rates are higher for registration after March 13. On-site rate for IEEE members is \$395, \$475 for nonmembers. Registration forms are available in the Advance Program (mailed to all Signal Processing Society members) or they can be obtained directly from:

Tom Lookabaugh
Publicity, ICASSP '92
Compression Laboratories Inc.
2860 Junction Ave.
San Jose, Calif. 95134

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR CORPORATE RECOGNITIONS

The IEEE is seeking nominations by July 1 for two special awards, known as the IEEE corporate recognitions, for engineering leadership and corporate innovation. They are to be presented at the 1993 IEEE Honors Ceremonies. IEEE members and nonmembers are invited to submit nominations.

The criteria for the recognitions are:

Engineering leadership. The IEEE Engineering Leadership Recognition is given for exceptional managerial leadership in the fields of interest of the IEEE, as reflected in an executive role. The recipient should have attained preeminent stature in the engineering community for inspirational, creative, and professional contributions that have been extraordinarily successful, exemplary, and persuasive in pursuing the theory, planning, implementation, and direction of outstanding achievements, contributions, or service in the field of electrotechnology.

There are no restrictions or preferences as to IEEE membership, nationality, race, sex, creed, or age.

Corporate innovation. The IEEE Corporate Innovation Recognition is given for outstanding and exemplary contributions by an industrial entity, governmental or academic organization, or other corporate body through innovative products, product lines, systems, or concepts that have resulted in major advancement of the arts and sciences of electrotechnology. There are no eligibility restrictions with regard to nationality, location, political persuasion, or position on public issues.

For more information and nomination forms, contact: Staff Secretary, IEEE Awards Board, 345 East 47th St., New York, N.Y. 10017-2394; fax, 212-223-2911.

NEW SELF-STUDY COURSE THE DESIGN AND APPLICATION OF DIGITAL BUSES

The Educational Activities Department of the IEEE announces the publication of a new self-study course, "The Design and Application of Digital Buses." Today, the emphasis is on networking logic/memory modules so that data and instructions can be shared. This process of transmitting information is called busing, and it requires both the physical medium and an information protocol.

This comprehensive course will help the many people associated with digital design understand the concept and potential use of many digital bus networks. The relationship between and among the protocol, interconnection, performance, and standards is reviewed. Specific topics covered include

(Continued overleaf)

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2	11	20	29	38	47	56	65	74	83	92	101	110	119	128	137	146	155	164	173
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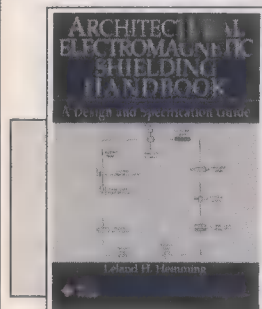
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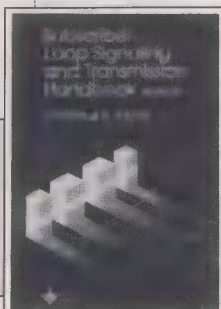
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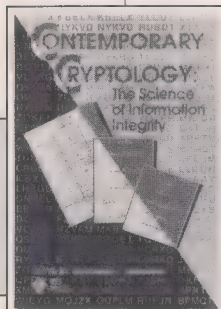
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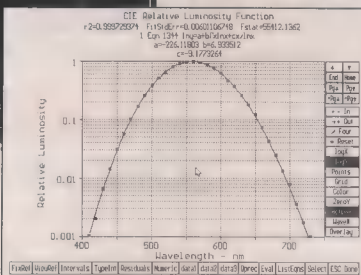
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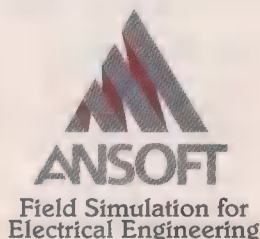


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tecting needs watering. The device utilizes the fact that soil becomes resistive to current as it dries. Chirping starts when the soil dries to the threshold resistance set by an adjustable potentiometer.

The Water-Me bird uses a lithium manganese dioxide battery with a rated capacity of 260 mAh, but the current drawn by the circuit ranges only from 2 to 4 mA when not beeping and 10 to 15 mA when beeping. At this rate, the battery lasts more than five years, says the developer. The gadget works best for potted plants where soil depth is less than 30 cm. The Water-Me sells for \$14.95. *Contact: Donald Limuti, 109 Lake St. S, #4, Kirkland, Wash. 98083; 206-822-5423; or circle 102.*

COMPUTERS

Networking the software developer

A new software product, NetMake, increases the productivity of software developers by allowing them to compile individual program modules on separate machines in a network. According to Aggregate Computing Inc., this can speed up large compiles by many factors.

The software is a parallel version of the Unix Make utility, which allows a software developer to use only one machine. NetMake permits these developers to use all the machines on their network as a single, aggregate computing resource.

NetMake is available for a minimum of five terminals. The introductory package to be used for networking this number of terminals is priced at \$5000. *Contact: Aggregate Computing Inc., 5217 Wayzata Blvd., Suite 125, Minneapolis, Minn. 55416; 612-546-5579; fax, 612-546-9485; or circle 103.*

Conference calls by PC

Groups of people at geographically separated computer terminals can now set up electronic conferences in which they share written and graphic information. With Aspects, conferees on separate Macintosh computers may see and edit the same document, with changes appearing instantly on each conferee's computer. Whether people are across the hall or across the ocean, they can work together to sketch ideas and edit documents, producing timely, high-quality results. And with Aspects, notes on what happened are available on disk, rather than on sheets of paper.

The software, for Macintosh computers, comes in packages of 1, 5, or 10 copies; cost is \$299, \$895, and \$1295, respectively. *Contact: Group Technologies Inc., 1408 North Fillmore St., Suite 10, Arlington, Va. 22201; 703-528-1555; fax, 703-528-3296; Email, group.tech@applelink.apple.com; or circle 104.*

EDUCATION

Math handbook plus

A cloth-bound handbook consisting of all the mathematical functions that arise in physical and engineering problems is an indispensable reference for engineers. With over 1000 pages, *The Handbook of Mathematical Functions* is the first technical handbook, according to its publisher, to supplement every mathematical function with formulas, graphs, and mathematical tables. The handbook also serves as a quick reference to all the mathematical functions required to solve most engineering problems. It is priced at \$75. *Contact: Polywog Press, 333 Jay St., Suite 655, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201; 718-260-3944; or fax, 718-260-3136; or circle 105.*

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CONSULTANT: Paul A.T. Wolfgang, Boeing Helicopters

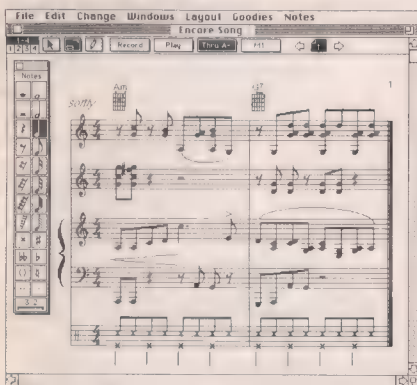
Program notes

Composer on call

The MIDI (pronounced "middy") standard gave form to the revolution in music begun by the synthesizer. *The Microsoft Computer Dictionary* reports, "The standardization on the Musical Instrument Digital Interface by the major synthesizer manufacturers is partially responsible for the huge success of computers in the music industry." Now, MIDI is creating a new software industry.

A MIDI music system typically consists of a computer, one or more synthesizers, and one or more sequencers. It transmits information from one component to another in the MIDI message format—8-bit packets that describe frequency, loudness, duration and other attributes of sound. Packets generated by the synthesizer may be stored for replay or further manipulation.

Programming techniques developed for artificial intelligence (AI) can be used to write software to process the packetized song—for example, adding harmony to a melody. For highly stylized musical forms, smarter software can even create full orchestra arrangements.



This editing screen is part of a typical music-scoring program, *Encore*. The program generates the starting score from a file of packets on a Macintosh or IBM-compatible computer. The packets conform to the Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI). The file may be synthesizer keyboard input that has been converted to MIDI packets or the output of another music program. The score is then edited with the tools represented by the icons on the left side of the screen. The edited score is printed out or converted into a MIDI file that is downloaded to the synthesizer and sequencer.

Software that creates "new" music from a digitized song is another application of AI techniques. Here, the form and pattern of the reference song are used to produce many

variations on the original theme. Another use is music distribution. In MIDI format, hundreds of pages of sheet music can be handily stored on just a single compact-disc (CD) ROM.

MusicWriter, a Los Gatos, Calif., company, is taking this idea to its logical conclusion. It is marketing the NoteStation, a computer with a laser printer plus a modem to access the MusicWriter music database. At music stores that offer NoteStation customers can download a MIDI file of sheet music for any song in the MusicWriter database, and NoteStation arranges it for them, writing it in a key they can play or in a voice range they can sing. *For more on Encore, contact: Passport Designs Inc., 100 Stone Pine Rd., Half Moon Bay, Calif. 94019; 415-726-0280; or circle 106. For more on NoteStation, contact: MusicWriter Inc., 170 Knowles Dr., #203, Los Gatos, Calif. 95030; 408-364-2500; or circle 107.*

The hobgoblin of consistency

Style in writing at its most sublime calls up memories of the Gettysburg address. But at its least ambitious it boils down to good grammar plus tidiness—consistency in spelling, capitalization, punctuation—just the job for a computer. Certainly, many programmers have written software that checks documents for compliance with rules in these areas.

On the one hand, general-purpose grammar-checking programs must allow considerable variation in usage, even within the document, if they are not to dictate how the author is to write. On the other, internal style consistency does make documents easier to read.

Most commercial programs do a good job checking items listed in the Associated Press Stylebook. Unfortunately, for engineering applications, newspaper or magazine stylebooks must be heavily supplemented to cover applications notes, data books, and other technical documents. So, even a grammar-checking program that implements the rules in a stylebook may not be useful to engineers.

A programmer may use a macro language to build custom style sheets. For example, Grammatik IV by Reference Software has a simple English-like macro language for building local style sheets. The rule @#/micro switch \ Always use MICRO SWITCH flags every occurrence of the phrase "micro switch" and displays the message "Always use MICRO SWITCH." Grammatik also supplies a rule editor to make creating and editing rules exceptionally easy. *Contact:*

Reference Software, 330 Townsend St., Suite 123, San Francisco, Calif. 94107, 408-541-0222; or circle 108.

The '90s electronic underground press

In the 1960s, the work of many soon-to-be-famous graphic artists and authors was found in underground newspapers. The lurid tabloids, published by two or three activists and printed on an irregular schedule, were sold on street corners and in radical book stores, and paid badly if ever. However, these magazines (some of which are still in print) were often the only place to publish their work.

What will be the 1990s equivalent of the underground press? Maybe the existing network of computer bulletin boards and distributors of shareware software. The "try before you buy, pay if you like it" ethic of shareware users appeals to those who cannot publish through traditional outlets.

Five trends make the electronic underground press possible.

- A large number of computer users are interested in art and books.
- Many artists and writers are willing to publish electronically.
- File format consolidation and translation programs make electronic images and text universal.
- Standardized viewing programs make electronic images and text more like printed material.
- Large floppies, hard disks, and CD ROMs lower distribution costs.

By now file format consolidation and translation programs have made electronic images and text universally accessible. Generic graphics formats can be imported into most graphic programs, while most word processor programs will accept generic text formats like TXT and RTF and cross-platform text formats like Microsoft's DOC and WordPerfect's WP. So, the artist or author needs only to distribute the work in one format to make it universally available. As for their audience, standardized viewing programs simplify access to images and text. Many shareware programs display images or text like a book. Also, commercial viewing programs for hypertext and hyperimages offer viewers a flexibility beyond the reach of printed material.

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CONSULTANTS: Stuart Feldman, Computer Systems Research, Bellcore, and John Kellum, Intergraph Advanced Processor Division

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Scanning The Institute

Teach-in counts on many engineers

About 20 000 engineers—twice as many as last year—were scheduled to participate in teach-ins in schools across the country to promote engineering among elementary, middle, and high school students during National Engineers Week, Feb. 16–22. The engineers, including about 1000 IEEE members, were to talk to students and show them videotapes about the engineering profession in the hopes of interesting them in careers in engineering. This year's teach-in, called Discover "E" (for engineering), was the third annual and the first to emphasize reaching out to minority students [THE INSTITUTE, March/April, p. 1].

Hot line for engineers

A program aimed at making U.S. students preeminent in math and science achievement has attracted more than 1700 engineers in its few months of operation. The Engineers for Education (E for E) program hopes to recruit more than 100 000 volunteers—30 000 of them being IEEE members—by the year 2000, one for almost every school in the United States. E for E was formed last year by a coalition of 45 engineering societies under the auspices of the American Association of Engineering Societies, Washington, D.C.

The volunteers will try to persuade students to pursue careers in engineering by conducting classroom demonstrations, organizing career days, and guiding field trips, among other activities. For information, would-be volunteers may dial E for E's number, 800-489-0348 [THE INSTITUTE, March/April, p. 1].

Sponsors sought for skills assessment

ESAP, the Engineering Skills Assessment Program, is being developed by IEEE volunteers to supply the tools for assessing how well IEEE members know their own and other electrical engineering disciplines. Now, corporate sponsors are being sought to contribute US \$10 000 each to help speed the development and introduction of the ESAP packages. In return, each sponsor will have an ESAP package developed in the field of its choice, and will also receive advance copies of every other package that's developed.

ESAP has made good headway in the past few months, with a half-dozen ESAP packages developed in various engineering subjects and over a dozen more in the works. In addition to providing the skills assessment, the ESAP packages describe the

duties and knowledge deemed important in each field, and provide guidance for self-study and matriculation [THE INSTITUTE, March/April, p. 8].

Pioneers who left a lasting mark

Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper (U.S. Naval Reserve, Retired) died on New Year's Day in her home in Arlington, Va., at the age of 85. She is best known for the development of computer programming languages that simplified the human interface with computer technology. She was awarded the National Medal of Technology by President Bush in 1991.

Sven H. Dodington (LF), inventor of one of the first basic navigation systems used to guide aircraft, died on Jan. 13 at age 79. He developed the system, which is also used for air traffic control, that directs planes to airports using radio beacons and distance-measuring equipment. Dodington's awards included the IEEE's Pioneer Award [THE INSTITUTE, March/April, p. 11].

Coming in Spectrum

Iraq and the bomb. How close did Iraq come to creating nuclear weaponry—and how was it able to come so close? This three-part report looks at the history of the country's nuclear program and weighs possible future methods of monitoring the nuclear efforts of other nations more closely.

Master of entropy. Claude Shannon was the first to apply Boolean algebra to the functioning of switches in electric circuitry and later fathered information theory—two foundation stones of modern computing and communications.

Update on workstations. This five-part report on what has happened over the last 12 months in the workstation arena opens with a survey of what users think. Half a dozen tables will list the brands they favor, for what purposes, and in which areas. The design disciplines that benefit will be tabulated, as will be preferences in application and system software.

The other four parts will cover:

- Commercially available workstations, with new important features highlighted.
 - Add-ons, such as hardware accelerators, adapter boards, storage systems, input devices, and output systems.
 - The impact on workstation design of commercially available ICs.
 - Network management software.
- Suggestions for further reading, a page of definitions, and an index will complete the package.

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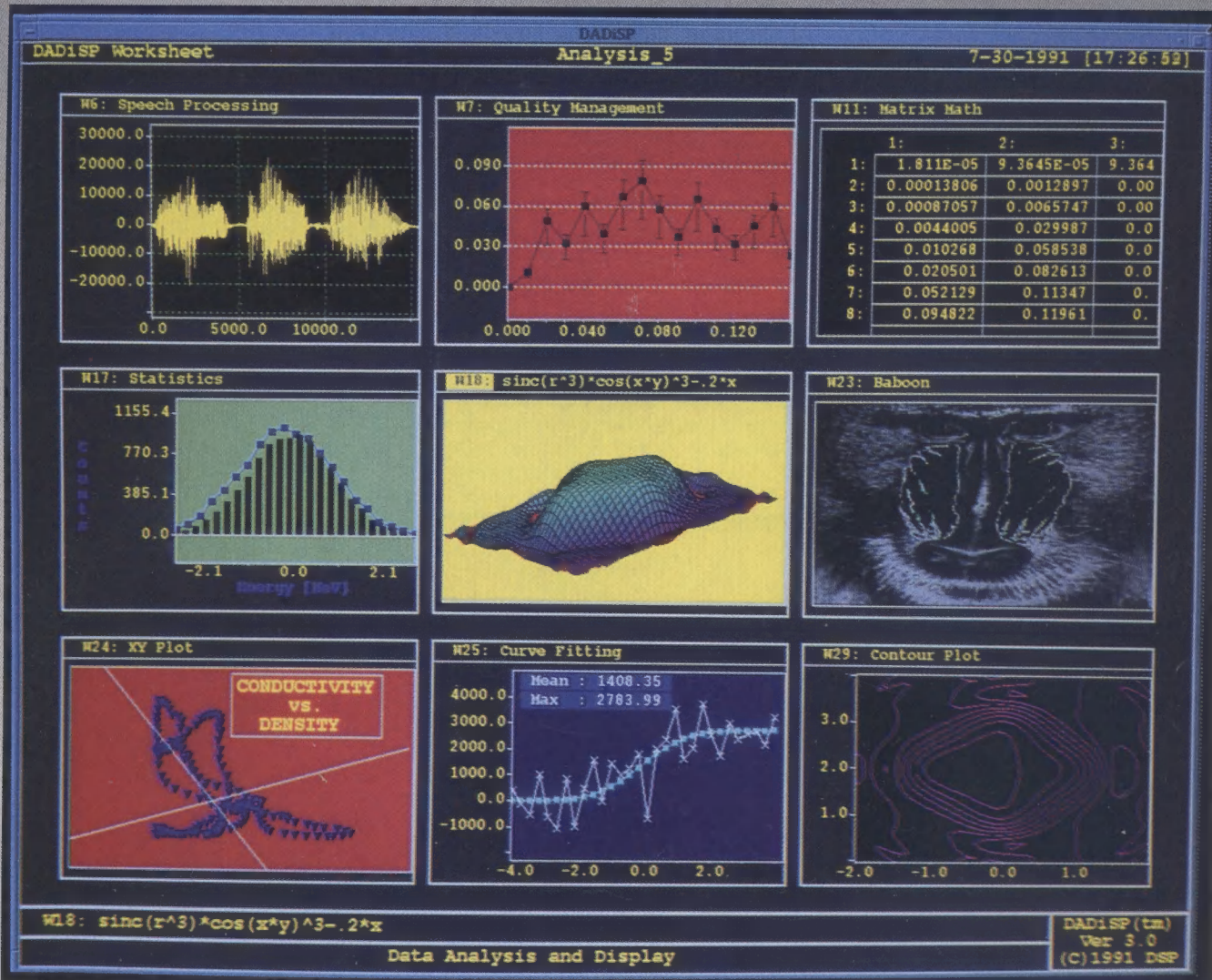
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